

And I'll build MY CHURCH,  
On THIS ROCK  
The gates of the underworld  
won't be able  
to stand against it.

Matthew 16:18, ESV

# Worship Celebration

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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/UMCBBEREA](http://www.facebook.com/UMCBBEREA)), 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

*Open our ears and hearts and entire lives, O God, to engage with today's questions:  
who is Jesus? who are we? to whom do our lives belong?*

*Too often, though we belong to you, we live as though our lives are our own.*

*Too often, though called to be salt and light, we remain tasteless and hidden.*

*Too often, though called to act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with you,  
we have chosen comfort over courage.*

*Call us again and afresh, O God, and equip us to bear your love in this challenging world. Amen.*

Hymn

*My Hope Is Built* (vv. 1-2, 4)

UMH 368

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness.*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.*

*In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.*

*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!*

*Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!*

*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

# 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—Exodus 1.8—2.10 (CEB)

<sup>1,8</sup>Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. <sup>9</sup>He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup>Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." <sup>11</sup>As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. <sup>13</sup>So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. <sup>14</sup>They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

<sup>15</sup>The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: <sup>16</sup>"When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." <sup>17</sup>Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

<sup>18</sup>So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

<sup>19</sup>The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." <sup>20</sup>So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

<sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

<sup>2.1</sup> Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup>The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. <sup>4</sup>The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup>Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. <sup>6</sup>When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

<sup>7</sup>Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

<sup>8</sup>Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup>After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

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

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

## Gospel Lesson—Matthew 16.13-20 (CEB)

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

<sup>15</sup>He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. <sup>18</sup>I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. <sup>19</sup>I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

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

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

## Children's Message

## Sermon

## Hymn

*Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me* (vv. 1-2, 4)

***What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.***

***To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

***The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side the Savior, he will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, his power is displayed.  
To this I hold: my shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley he will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

***With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home.  
And day by day I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

*Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me / Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren / 2018 CityAlight Music  
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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](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.*

## Doxology

UMH 95

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

***Loving God, we thank you for every gift, large and small, that will be offered to you today.  
Receive these gifts along with the gifts of our time and talents  
as together, we pursue your great work in this world.  
Receive our presence as testimony to your goodness,  
and multiply our acts of loving-kindness throughout all your world. Amen.***

# We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

*Graves Into Gardens*

*I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.  
Then you came along and put me back together.  
And every desire is not satisfied here in your love.*

*Oh, there's nothing better than you. There's nothing better than you.  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.*

*I'm not afraid to show you my weakness.  
My failures and flaws, Lord you've seen them all, and you still call me friend.  
Because the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.  
There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again.*

*Oh, there's nothing better than you. There's nothing better than you.  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.*

*You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.  
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can.  
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.  
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.*

*Graves Into Gardens / Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Tiffany Hammer / 2019 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing  
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## Benediction

May we leave this time of worship with the assurance of God's faithfulness.  
May we go encouraged by the stories of those who have walked Jesus' way before us.  
May we go with commitment to serving God in all circumstances.  
May we go to be living reminders to the world of the unconditional love of God.  
***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

## Postlude

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

### ***Morning Prayer***

Today, O God, help me receive your revelation  
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
It is in your name that I seek to live and pray.  
Amen.

### ***Evening Prayer***

Holy God, for anything I did this day  
that was pleasing to you,  
I give you thanks and pray that you use me;  
for anything I did this day  
that was displeasing to you,  
I ask your forgiveness and pray  
that you redeem me. Amen.

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## Seeds Family Worship Concert - Live Online

*Sunday, August 23, 4 PM, on Facebook*

Join us for a fun family concert! We'll be using Seed's worship music as part of our family devotions this fall - this is a great way to preview and enjoy their worship songs!

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/601818407067174/>.

For a link to watch together, contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## 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 (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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.

## Youth Group - Putt-Putt & Dairy Queen

*August 30, 5-6:30 PM, Southwest Golf Center - 1005 W Bagley Rd, Berea, OH 44017*

Join us at 5 PM for a physically-distanced and safe social experience - Putt-Putt and Dairy Queen! A short devotion and prayer will kick off the fun. Face coverings required. Show off your best designs!

**Plan Purple:** Screen Share movie night - Pick up your treats Sunday morning on the church porch. (*Plan Purple kicks in if our county is level 4/purple.*)

Questions? Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## Online Adult Formation - God and the Pandemic:

### A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath

*Sundays, 10 AM via Zoom*

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.



## Rally Day

*Sunday, September 13*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13! We will be kicking off our new Sunday School Format for children and youth as well as highlighting Adult Faith Formation opportunities.

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



## Children's and Youth Formation

We're excited to be offering Virtual Faith Formation this year on Zoom video conferencing! You'll see your Sunday School teachers and classmates, hear more stories and Scriptures together, and discover new ways God is reaching us and working within us. Watch for more information coming soon in the September Caller.

We are excited to welcome children and youth from our community in these groups as well - so give them a warm welcome! Have a friend you'd like to join us? Send us their contact information and we'll be sure to send an invite.

Please be sure to fill out this year's registration form with new vital information we'll need from each family at <http://www.umcb.org/child-youth-formation-registration-page/>.



## House Churches

Well ingrained in our Wesleyan heritage is the practice of coming together in small groups for fellowship, discipleship, and mission. As we weather this storm of a pandemic, and look towards a brighter future, we encourage you to consider this kind of small group community. Below you will find types of "House Churches" that we'd like to help you organize. The idea would be for you to safely begin meeting either online or outdoors, while weather permits. As we ease out of physically distancing ourselves from each other, the hope would be that these strengthened community groups will stay together.

How are house churches different from small groups or topical classes? In some ways, there's much similarity. However, we are recognizing our need to be together in different ways during this season. While we won't be able to gather as a whole congregation for some time, we are still, the church together and apart. We can be together in small groups and still be and experience the Church, or experience belonging to the Beloved Community.

Your house church will have a culture and rhythm of your group's creating. Perhaps you'll gather online once a month, and in-person once a month. Or perhaps you'd like to talk weekly. For now, we'll help organize a few households together based on their desired focus for their house church.

Complete the interest form **online** at <http://www.umcb.org/adult-formation-interest-form/> or **coming soon in the September Caller** and we'll help get you connected to a house church.





## **Read & Grow Book Discussion Group**

**September 14, 6:30-8 PM, on Zoom**

*(Watch for Zoom information in the September Caller.)*

The 2020-2021 Read and Grow Book Discussion Group invites YOU to join us as we discuss **Galileo's Daughter A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love** by Dava Sobel. *The book chronicles some of Galileo's scientific work which led him to adopt the Copernican system, in which the Sun is the center of the Solar System with all the planets orbiting it. His problems with the Catholic church were very hurtful to him and caused him much suffering. It is a fascinating book to read.*

Each month's discussion is led by a different member of the group.

If you have questions, please contact **Janet Mallarnee** at **440-235-7331**,  
**Betsy Meikle** at **440-243-5767** or **Jan Harlamert** at **440-243-7126**.



## **Running the Race Virtual 5K/1 Mile**

**September 13-20, Celebration of Our Journey on Sunday, September 20**

We are kicking off a year of running the race in faith, with an actual run! (...Or walk, or crawl, or roll, however you move!) Join us for a virtual race September 13-20. All you need to do is register and then pick a day to complete your steps. You may want to use a pedometer or car to map out your distance. Once you're good and sweaty, take a smiling picture of you doing what you can do, to help out Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland.

You can make your donation of \$10/person or \$25/family online at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check. Please note "Virtual Race" on the description line. We'll celebrate our journey together on Sunday, September 20.

Register at

<http://www.umcb.org/resources-for-connecting-supporting-our-community/>

or by calling **Pastor Carrie** at **440-234-3525 x105**.



## **Food Collection for Local Food Pantries**

**Wednesdays, 5-8 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](http://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

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church™

## **Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom Emerging Leaders Town Hall**

*Wednesday, August 26, 1 PM, Live on [UMC.org](https://www.umc.org)*

A panel of young United Methodist leaders will discuss their strategies for changing the world and their encouragement for partners in this work. They will respond to your questions about their vision for how to take action with intention and how the Church can draw from the wisdom of the past and hope for the future. Join panelists Ann Jacob, Theon Johnson III, Andres De Arco and Katelin Hansen for this important conversation.

More information, including bios, are available at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/town-hall-emerging-leaders-discuss-dismantling-racism-8-26-2020>.

### **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>.

### **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**

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.