



Worship Celebration

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

Aria in F major

G. F. Handel

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

God of justice-seeking love, help us become the people you create us to be.

We yearn to be part of a community of love,

but it is easier to tear others down than to build one another up.

We long for the healing of the nations, but it is easier to harm than to heal.

Bind up our spirits, Gracious One, that we might be reconciled with all who cause us pain.

Help us cast aside the things that hold us captive,

that we might be free to love one another well.

In your spirit, we seek to live, worship, and pray. Amen.

Opening Songs

How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed!*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

*And when I think that God, his son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in—
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!*

*How Great Thou Art / Stuart Wesley Keene Hine / 1949 and 1953 Capital CMG Publishing
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How Great Is Our God

*The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty; Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide, and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.
How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!*

*And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands; beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son, the lion and the lamb, the lion and the lamb.
How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!*

Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: how great is our God!

How Great Is Our God / Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash / 2004 sixsteps Music / 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 13.8-14 (CEB)

⁸Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. ⁹The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself.* ¹⁰Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

¹¹As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. ¹²The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light.

¹³Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. ¹⁴Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 18.15-20 (CEB)

¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.*^[a] ¹⁷But if they still

won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail

UMH 549

*Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.*

*With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.*

*Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.*

*Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.*

*Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.*

*Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.*

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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.

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

*Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us
whenever two or three are gathered in your name,
be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Oh Had I a Golden Thread

***Had I a golden thread, and needle so fine,
I'd weave magic strand and rainbow design, of rainbow design.***

***In it I'd weave the bravery of women giving birth.
I'd weave the innocence of children of this earth, children of this earth.***

***Far o'er the waters, I'd stretch my rainbow band
to every human being, so they would understand, so they would understand.***

***Tell my brothers and my sisters of my rainbow design.
Bind up this sorry world with heart and hand and mind, heart and hand and mind.***

*Oh Had I a Golden Thread / Pete Seeger, Peter Amidon / 2005 The Bicycle Music Company
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Benediction

God has put a new song in our hearts. Let us go to sing that new song for the Lord.

God has put a song of justice and peace in our souls. Let us go to bring that new song to the world.

God has put a song of joy in our very being. Let us go to live that new song with every step we take.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Trumpet Te Deum

M. A. Charpentier

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

Morning Prayer

O God of this and every morning,
as I begin this day, call my name;
as I step into this day, guide my feet;
as I live this day, care for those I love;
as I learn this day, teach me your ways.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Evening Prayer

God of stars and planets,
the setting sun ends this day for us
as it rises on a new day for others.
For us and for them, be light in every darkness.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

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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 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/>.

Elementary materials will be available for pick up this weekend, Saturday-Monday, on the church porch. Please take one packet per child in your family or care.



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

on Page 4 the September Caller and we'll help get you connected to a house church.



**Book Discussion: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*
by Isabel Wilkerson**

Monday, September 28, 6:30 PM, on Zoom

On Monday, September 28 at 6:30 pm, all are welcome to join us for a discussion of the book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

In this brand new book, Isabel Wilkerson—author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* (2011)—offers a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in the United States as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how our country today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Beautifully written and deeply revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is an essential story of people and history and a reexamination of what lies just underneath the surface of ordinary lives in the United States today.

To express your interest in participating so that you can be kept informed, please contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.

Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

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

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.

Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81259288501>

By phone: 1-888-788-0099, Meeting ID: 812 5928 8501 (no password required)

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**.

New Group: GriefShare

Starting on Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 - 8 PM, via Zoom (details to come)

GriefShare Programs are designed for help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, friend or animal. It is a warm caring place, to be you and share a little of how you are feeling with others, in the same situation. Some of the topics are: *Is This Normal? Challenges of Grief, Guilt and Anger, Stuck...*

Come join us beginning Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 PM. This will be a thirteen-week session total. There are workbooks available for \$15.00

Thank You.... hope to see you there!!

For more information or workbooks, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz**
at **440-409-5931** or marylynn482@gmail.com.





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 or **440-234-3525 x101**.



In-Person Indoor Worship

Sundays, 9AM, Wesley Hall

While Cuyahoga County's Public Health Emergency Risk Level remains at Level 2 or lower, we will plan to resume limited-capacity in-person Sunday morning worship services at 9 AM in Wesley Hall, beginning September 6. If you are ill, experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, or recently have been in contact with someone experiencing symptoms, please stay at home and join us for our online worship service at 11 AM. Face coverings will be required at all times while you are in the building, and we will maintain safe physical distancing (minimum of six feet) from members of other households.

Worship attendance will be limited to forty persons, and you must register in advance if you plan to attend. Registration for each Sunday's worship service will be open from noon on Tuesday to noon on Friday.

You can register online (www.umcb.org) or by calling the church office and leaving a message (**440-234-3525 x100**).



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 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 by calling **Pastor Carrie** at **440-234-3525 x105** or online at <http://www.umcb.org/resources-for-connecting-supporting-our-community/>.



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. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for your generous participation.



UMW GOURMET POPCORN SALE

Pre-paid orders: Wednesdays, September 9 and 16, 11 AM- 1 PM and 5 - 7 PM, UMCB parking lot

Everyone loves popcorn...perfect for family game/movie night, tuck in a care package for your kids/grandkids, give a bag as a random act of kindness to a neighbor or friend, or just munch on some goodies as you read your favorite book. UMW gourmet popcorn sale (popped by Grand Pacific Popcorn Company) will help benefit UMW missions.

Flavors: Savory (\$6/bag): Butter, Churro, Garlic Parmesan, Ranch, Salt and Vinegar, Sour Cream and Chive, White Cheddar

Sweet (\$7/bag): Birthday Cake, Black Cherry, Caramel, Chocolate, Green Apple, Vanilla

For more information or to place an order if you're not able to get to church, please contact **Carol McCleery** at mcmanistee7250@gmail.com.



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 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.