



Worship Celebration

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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

Holy Is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We bow down and worship him now. How great, how awesome is he. And together we sing, everyone sing. Holy is the Lord God almighty. The earth is filled with his glory.

Holy is the Lord God almighty. The earth is filled with his glory. The earth is filled with his glory.

It is rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown. And together we sing, everyone sing.

Holy is the Lord God almighty. The earth is filled with his glory.

Holy is the Lord God almighty. The earth is filled with his glory. The earth is filled with his glory.

Holy Is the Lord / Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio / 2003 sixsteps Music / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within, overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling. Have you come to the end of yourself, do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.

O come to the altar; the Father's arms are open wide.

Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes. Come today; there's no reason to wait. Jesus is calling.

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy; from the ashes a new life is born. Jesus is calling.

O come to the altar; the Father's arms are open wide.

Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

***Oh, what a Savior, isn't he wonderful; sing alleluia, Christ is risen.
Bow down before him, for he is Lord of all; sing alleluia, Christ is risen.***

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown; tell the world of the treasure you've found.

*O Come to the Altar / Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joyce, Mack Brock / 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing
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Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

***Gracious God, renew our minds this day with the power of your Holy Spirit.
Refresh our spirits with the mercy of your amazing grace.
Bring us into fellowship with you and with one another,
and grant us the courage to live your more abundant way.
Part the waters of our troubled thoughts,
that we might perceive one another as you do.
Protect us with your powerful hand,
that we might sing of your faithfulness and love.
In your name, we gather 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 14.1-12 (CEB)

¹ Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. ² One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). ⁵ One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. ⁶ Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. ⁷ We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. ⁹ This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ Because it is written,

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me,
and every tongue will give praise to God.*

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 18.21-35 (CEB)

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant

fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' ²⁷The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

²⁹"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' ³⁰But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³²His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

³⁵"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

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

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood his mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood his mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.

But God who called me here below, will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) / John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio / 2006 sixsteps 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) 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.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Merciful God, transform these offerings into hope and joy for a troubled world.
Receive the blessings we return to you this day,
and transform our ministries into instruments of your grace.
Through our giving, may places of sorrow and grief
know the sounds of laughter and love.
Through our living, mold us into your people—
a people of hope, a people who live and die in you. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

What a Beautiful Name

*You were the Word at the beginning, one with God the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in you, our Christ.
What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this. What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.
You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus, you brought heaven down.
My sin was great, your love was greater; what could separate us now?
What a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful name it is, nothing compares to this. What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.
Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you. You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory for you are raised to life again.
You have no rival, you have no equal. Now and forever God, you reign.
Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory, yours is the name above all names.
What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful name it is, nothing can stand against. What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.*

*What a Beautiful Name / Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood / 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing, Australia
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Benediction

As we leave this time of worship, may we plunge into the waters of life without fear,
for God goes with us, now and always.
May we move forward in life with purpose and passion,
for Christ is our guide and guardian.
May we live as people of powerful hope, for the Spirit renews us day by day.
May we go with God's blessings to be blessings to others.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

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



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Morning Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
thank you for this day.
Strengthen my resolve
to love and show mercy throughout the day.
Lead my feet to your holy dwelling place,
and guide the work I have to do for today.
In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Merciful God, thank you for keeping me
in the safety of your arms
and for new mercies
and the glory you showed through the day.
Keep my family and me through the night.
I thank and praise you,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

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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.



Today is Rally Day!

We are kicking off our new Sunday School Format and Opportunities.

See this page and the next for more information or 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.

Families with children need to join the Facebook Group found here to access family-let Sunday School: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/umchsundayschool/>. Lessons can be accessed a month at a time, but are dated. Elementary materials will be available for pick up all this week on the church porch.

Families with Youth should note this zoom link for Live Sunday School at 12 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87382928705>.

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 **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.

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...*

Join Zoom Meeting Online: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344694889?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344694889?pwd=RjlkcnGN5VU9FSUR0bHR3YThucVJMUT09)
[pwd=RjlkcnGN5VU9FSUR0bHR3YThucVJMUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344694889?pwd=RjlkcnGN5VU9FSUR0bHR3YThucVJMUT09)

By Phone (audio only): 1-888-788-0099

Meeting ID: 883 4469 4889, Passcode: 788920

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.



Messy Church IS BACK!

September 20, 6 PM, on Zoom

Messy Church IS BACK! From the comfort of your own home! We'll get messy and play! We'll learn about the Peace of God! And we'll have a snack together!

Register on Facebook (www.facebook.com/umcberea) or by emailing **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org for the Zoom link.



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).



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.