

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.***



Today (Sunday, September 27), we invite you to join with the East Ohio Conference for the 10 AM live-streamed Annual Conference closing worship service at www.eocumc.com/eoac20/livestream.

Our regular 9 AM In-Person and 11 AM Facebook Live worship services will resume next Sunday, October 4.

CONNECTED
2020 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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.

Morning Prayer

Dear God,
thank you for this day.
Guide my mind in your way
and help me to do your will.
All praise, honor, and glory is yours. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Dear God,
thank you for providing for my needs.
Thank you for always being with me.
Keep me through the night
and put a song of praise on my lips
when I rise again.
In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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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.



Women's Bible Study: *Seamless* by Angie Smith

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, on Zoom

We've just started a new book, *Seamless* by Angie Smith. Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming. This book covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Join us, learn more, and share your knowledge.

The books can be purchased through Amazon for about \$13 dollars.

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718pwd=NUIFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVlWbHcwblpCdz09>

By phone: 1-888-788-0099

Meeting ID 856 1917 9718 **Password** 600537

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



GriefShare Group - New Participants Welcome!

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 PM, via Zoom

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...*

There are workbooks have available for \$15.00

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344694889?pwd=RjlkcnGN5VU9FSUR0bHR3YThucVJMUT09>

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

Meeting ID: 883 4469 4889, **Passcode:** 788920

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



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/umcbsundayschool/>. 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.



Prayers for the Berea Community Meal

For many years, our church has participated in helping to provide and serve a community meal at St. Paul's, at least once a year. We're grateful to have been able to do this again, despite the challenges of the pandemic. While we did not get to serve the meal, we will still provide the meal thanks to your generosity.

We invite you to pray for those cooking and receiving a warm meal on September 30th. May our community know that the Spirit continues to lift them up in these challenge times, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God.



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.



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).



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.



Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 4, 5:00 pm, Seminary Street Lawn

On Sunday, October 4 at 5:00pm, all are welcome to bring their pets and join us in the lawn on Seminary Street as we give thanks to God for our animal companions and ask God's blessing on them and us. Please wear face coverings and have larger animals on a leash and smaller animals in a carrier.

If you are uncomfortable joining us in person, please participate in an online "pet parade" by emailing a picture of yourself and your pet to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org) by the end of the day on **Thursday, October 1**. Pictures will be shared on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/umcberea).

For more information, please contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100.