

The United Methodist Church of Berea

THE CALLER

December 2020

For weekly updates on events and activities, please subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter at www.umcb.org.



Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA



THE LONGEST NIGHT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 5 PM IN WESLEY HALL AND 7 PM ONLINE

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on Monday, December 21 at 5 PM in Wesley Hall or 7 PM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) for a worship service of scripture, prayer, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, also, and join us as we affirm together God's presence with us, even in the loneliest of times.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Worship with us on Thursday, December 24, in Wesley Hall, on the lawn and sidewalk outside our building, and/or online. Each service will include music, a message of hope, and the traditional sharing of candlelight. Invite your friends, family members, and neighbors, and join us as we celebrate the gift of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ.



4 PM IN WESLEY HALL

Please pre-register at

www.umcb.org/worship-registration or by calling the church office at 440-234-3525 x100 as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. (Attendance will be limited to 50 individuals.)

7 PM ONLINE

(www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

This worship service will conclude with an invitation to join us outside or on Zoom at 8:30 PM to light candles and share in the hymn, "Silent Night". 8:30 PM ON THE PORCH AND SEMINARY STREET YARD & SIDEWALK We will read the Christmas story, light candles, and join our voices in singing "Silent Night".

11 PM IN WESLEY HALL

Please pre-register at

www.umcb.org/worship-registration or by calling the church office at 440-234-3525 x100 as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. (Attendance will be limited to 50 individuals.)

Face coverings and safe physical distancing (minimum of six feet) from members of other households are required at all times for in-person gatherings and while you are in the building. 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 live-streaming worship service at 7 PM.

Please note that plans for in-person gatherings, both inside and outside, may be subject to change based on advisories and guidance from public health officials. Any changes will be communicated through our website (www.umcb.org) and through email communications (sign up at www.umcb.org/online-resources).

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GAT	HER December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 196 (UMH 815) Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20	
NVITING, & WELCOMING	December 25, 2020 Christmas Day	Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 (UMH 818) Hebrews 1.1-4 (5-12) John 1.1-14	
	December 31, 2020 Watch Night/ New Year's Eve	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Psalm 148 (UMH 861) Galatians 4.4-7 Matthew 25.31-46	
	January 1, 2021 New Year's Day	Ecclesiastes 3.1-13 Psalm 8 (UMH 743) Revelations 21.1-6a Matthew 25.31-46	

00000000000 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SCAVENGER HUNT DECEMBER 13 START AT THE CHURCH BETWEEN 5-6 PM

Join us for a fun evening of Christmas light driving and finding!

Pick up your scavenger hunt from the church between 5 and 6 PM on December 13. Or, if you prefer email delivery of the scavenger hunt, let Pastor Carrie know.

We encourage you to bring food or monetary donation for our local food pantries.

You will receive a participation gift as well! Find things on the list like snowmen, angels, mangers, and even unicorns!

Many thanks to Emily and Amanda Kurtz and Hope Antczak for creating our scavenger hunt.

Have a unique Christmas decoration in your yard? Pastor Carrie know at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105 and we'll be sure to get your house on the list!





BLESSING OF HOMES

POST-EPIPHANY (BEGINNING JANUARY 6, 2021)

In some parts of the world, there is a Christian custom of inviting God's blessing on dwelling places, including both homes and workplaces, and upon all who live, work, or visit there. Along with prayers for God's blessing, the front or main entrance is marked with chalk as a sign and reminder that we have invited God's presence into our homes.

This tradition is rooted in the visit of the magi to the place where the Christ-child resided (Matthew 2.1-12), and so it is most appropriately practiced near or during the season after the Epiphany, on January 6.

If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship for your home at the beginning of 2021, please contact Pastor Nathan (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 6, 2021.

DECEMBER 2020



STAYING CONNECTED

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Prayer

Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 AM via Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/518014483)

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM Meeting id: 848 4741 1964 Passcode: 195510

In-person Sunday Morning Worship, Sundays at 9:00 AM in Wesley Hall, will be temporarily suspended at least through December 17, pursuant to the stay-at-home health advisory issued by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Please contact Pastor Nathan (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) with any questions.

Live Streamed Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays at 11:00 AM via Facebook Live

www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos

By phone : dial **1-888-788-0099** meeting id **961 8451 9312**

Virtual Fellowship Hour via Zoom

Sundays immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service
To connect on Zoom, enter meeting id 878 1505 0844 and passcode 775348.

By phone: dial 1-888-788-0099 and enter the meeting id and passcode above.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact 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.

You can also submit prayer requests on our website at **www.umcb.org/sermons.**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Christian formation opportunities are available for persons of all ages and at all stages of the discipleship journey.

For more information on getting connected, see pages 7-9 in this Caller or contact Pastor Carrie at cantczak@umcb.org
or 440-234-3525 x105.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season of pandemic, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial to ensuring that we can continue our commitments to mission and ministry.

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.

Financial generosity remains an essential practice in making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS

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To protect you and our staff from COVID-19 exposure, staff members will continue to work remotely as much as possible. Please conduct business with the staff by email or phone whenever possible. If your business requires an in-person visit to the church building, please call ahead to ensure that someone will be available to assist you.



THE CALLER

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Bruce Akins Joyce McGee **Betty Atherton Betty Miller** Barbara Beihl Rev. Cal Myers Donna O'Brien Heidi Blue Carol Bodle Esther O'Hearn **Iean Brenneison Donald Powers** Cleda Fletcher Lou Russell Molly Force Russ Sanderson Carol Heskett Carol Thompson Jack Irey Kathleen Wargelin Gloria Wharton Larry Jelinek Michelle Lawrence

MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Dick Baker (Devon Oaks, Westlake)
Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)
Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)
Janice Kavander
Pat Sarka (Gardens at Westlake)
Barbara Scoon (Generations)
Edna Thomason (Symphony)
Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)
Bob Warner (Kemper House, Strongsville)
Eva Williamson (Western Reserve-Medina)

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE ...

- ... to the family and friends of Pat Harf, who went on to God's eternal peace on November 3, 2020.
- . . . to Corky Cline and the family of Nicole Lambert, who went on to God's eternal peace on November 5, 2020.
- . . . to Florence Gardner and the family of Richard Gardner, who went on to God's eternal peace on November 15, 2020.

MILITARY

J.D. Ferut (grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs)
Ryan Hopkins
Ron Krueger (son-in-law of Georgiann Baesel)
Bill Lambert (son-in-law of Corky Cline)
Ben Lebrun
Zachary New (grandson of Bob & Jackie King)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Annette (friend of Phil Gehring) Harry (brother of Verlaine Anderson) Joshua Baker (grandson of Nancy Best) Marc Bittinger Dave Breakey (friend of the Brenniesons) Dennis (friend of the Brenniesons) Mike (cousin of the Brenniesons) Terri Christian (mother of Pastor Carrie Antczak) AmyMarie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak) Spencer Gehring Sylvie Isgro-Schicker Katherine (aunt of Elaine Leece) Thomas O. Miller (requested by Jane Miller) Paul McMillin (son of Andrew & Christine McMillin) Joan Mraz (friend of Nancy Schillace) Jeremy Piper Jessica Randall (niece of Kathy Zacharyasz) Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk)

To receive Prayer Concerns by email, please email the Church Office at info@umcb.org.

If you know of someone needing care or a visit, please contact the **Church Office** (info@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100) or **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101).

Sunday, December 6, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13 (UMH 806) 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8	For Reflection and Conversation: The prophet Isaiah announces good news: God comforts and strengthens a wearied and exiled people in preparation for their journey toward home. Mark's Gospel announces the good news of God in Jesus Christ: God comes to turn the world right side up and to baptize us in the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the messiah, what is the beginning of God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?
Sunday, December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 (UMH 847) 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8, 19-28	For Reflection and Conversation: Our reading from the Gospel of John reminds us that we are not the light, but we are called to testify as witnesses to the light, who is Jesus Christ. The verb "to bear witness" occurs thirty-three times in the Gospel of John. How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light who has come into the world?
Sunday, December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 Luke 1.47-55 (UMH 199) Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38	For Reflection and Conversation: Mary's song proclaims that God is lifting up the lowly while scattering the proud, and feeding the hungry while sending the rich away with empty hands. How does this change the way you think about God's coming reign of justice and mercy? How does this change the way you live?
Sunday, December 27, 2020 First Sunday after Christmas	2 Samuel 61.10-62.3 Psalm 148 (UMH 861) Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.22-40	For Reflection and Conversation: Consider what it means and what difference it makes to be a child of God. What does it mean to you to think of yourself as a brother or sister of Jesus, the Son of God?

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 6):

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places of this world. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 6):

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day and rescued me from my exile.

Where I have flourished, I give you thanks; where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness.

Protect me through the night that I may rest in your realm of peace where righteousness makes a home. Amen.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 13):

Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities.

Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world and into the dark places of my own life.

I want to follow you in paths of justice, to speak up with you for liberty, and to bend with you toward the brokenhearted. Help me to trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise, and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 13):

Restore me, O God, from the rush of this day.
Let me dream this night
of all the great things you have done.
As the darkness comes
and these little lights in my house glow,
I give thanks for the greater Light
no darkness can overcome.
To anyone who mourns or fears danger this night,
bring the peace that only you can give.
You are faithful,
and I am grateful for your presence. Amen.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 20):

Expectant God,
Mary sings because she has new life in her,
the promise of your salvation.
Fill me with hope this day
as I lift my life to you
and seek to do your will.
Look with favor on our world
and all who are in need,
that your love may be magnified
as I follow humbly in your way. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 20):

Lord, as I come to you seeking rest this night, I pray that all may find a home in you, be disturbed by no one, and be free of all afflictions, for you, O God, are mighty to save. Amen.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 27):

In you, O God, I will greatly rejoice—
in speaking and in silence,
in travels and in resting,
in working and in leisure,
in duties and in freedom.
O God, my whole being exults in you,
and my life shall evermore declare your praise,
my light, my love, my joy. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 27):

Lord, let your servant sleep in peace this night and fulfill your gracious word.
Reveal to me the salvation that you have prepared for all people.
With Jesus Christ, help me be a light to the nations and a sign of your glorious promise.
Amen.

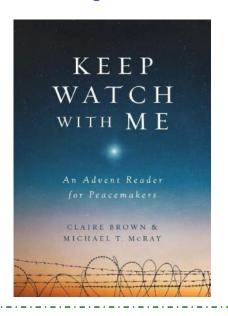


ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADVENT STUDY TUESDAYS, 7 PM, VIA ZOOM

Join us Tuesdays at 7 PM on zoom to share our reflections on the book *Keep Watch with Me: And Advent Reader for Peacemakers*. The book is available through Amazon or Cokesbury. We suggest ordering it for yourself and having it delivered directly to your home.

For help with ordering, contact **Pastor Carrie** at **cantczak@umcb.org** or **440-234-3525 x105**.





JANUARY OPPORTUNITY SUNDAYS, 10 AM

Beginning in January, during the 10 AM hour on Sundays, we will begin *Disciple Fast Track*, a Bible study spanning the whole Bible over the course of a year. Over this winter and spring, we will be learning from the Old Testament. The class will be held remotely.

If you are interested in joining this small group, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at **cantczak@umcb.org** or **440-234-3525 x105**.

You are also invited to enjoy faith formation resources from your own home! Our church has a subscription to Amplify Media (which is like Netflix for church). We will use it for small groups and Bible studies, but YOU can also use it from home!

You can access a large library of devotions, Bible studies, small group videos, and children's videos in a few ways:

Use your web browser and go to: amplifymedia.com

Use your Android or Apple device, download the "Amplify Media" app

Use your Roku device on your t.v. download the app "Amplify"

Login/Set-Up information: go to www.amplifymedia.com/amplify/welcome to get started. Put in our access code: BJWMLH. Create a free user account. Once that is done you can use any of the above ways to stream videos. You only need to do this step once. After that, you will sign-in with your unique username and password.

Please let us know if this a fruitful offering for your family's faith formation. We'd love to know what is helpful!

If you need help, let **Pastor Carrie** know at **cantczak@umcb.org** or **440-234-3525 x105**.



YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Sundays, Noon via Zoom

Youth are continuing to grow in weekly Sunday School on Zoom each Sunday at Noon.

A big thank you to our teachers: David Spann, Barb Peterson, Cindie Moore, and M.L. Moore. Our team has learned a lot this year from your youth, and have gracefully navigated moving faith formation to an engaging online experience.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 6, 5 PM, VIA ZOOM

Youth will be celebrating Christmas a little early, on December 6 at 5 PM in a Zoom Christmas party.

All youth reminders, links, and more come to families on the Remind app.

If you need to update your information or wish to be added to the text and email list, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



History teaches us some "humorous" lessons! At the turn of the last century is was argued that women should not be educated - that education would interfere with women's health. Luckily that theory lost! Today, there are more women in law schools than men! Good luck to all women as we begin another year!

Jo Swanson

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

REQUEST YOUR FAITH FORMATION PACKET BY DECEMBER 15

Children and their families received Advent devotional books this month and are growing in Christ together as they prepare for Christmas.

Beginning in January, children will receive a reading list of Bible stories, and Bible study, prayer notes, and worship note pages for each Sunday. Stories will also be read in worship and posted online. This is a great way for families to grow together. Grandparents can even share these stories and resources if they'd like.

To request a faith formation packet, please contact Pastor Carrie cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105 by December 15.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

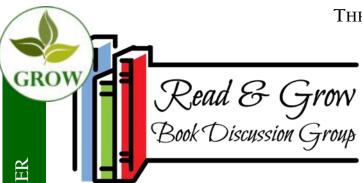
Come join us for the Women's Bible study on Thursday evenings. We are studying **Matchless** by Angie Smith. **Matchless** explores the life of Jesus.

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

GRIEFSHARE STARTING NEW SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 12 VIA ZOOM

We will be starting a new session of GriefShare on January 12, 2020. All are welcome.

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



THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH 6:30 - 8:00 PM, VIA ZOOM

Join us from 6:30-8:00 PM to participate in 2020-2021 Read & Grow Book Discussion Group (on Zoom until the building is open for meetings.)

DECEMBER 14

The Warmth of Other Suns

by Isabel Wilkerson

A sweeping ethnography of the Great Migration - the mass exodus of African Americans from the South to Northern and Western US cities dating from approximately 1914-1970. The story attempts to trace the history of racism in the Jim Crow South as well as the reasons, successes, and failures of those African-Americans who left the place of their birth in order to seek better economic and social opportunities.

JANUARY 9, 2021

Les Miserables

Book by Victor Hugo DVD (134 minutes) with Liam Neeson, movie script by Alain Boublil & William Nicholson music by Claude-Michel Schonberg

This is an epic tale of love, honor and obsession played out against the dramatic backdrop of early 19th century France. It tells the story of Jean Valjean, whose theft of a loaf of bread condemns him to an unjust prison sentence and a life on the run.

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

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

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**.



UMW NEWS

Well, it's definitely been a strange year, a true understatement! As the year comes to an end, we wanted to give you a few updates on the United Methodist Women of UMCB.

Fundraising has been very restricted this year and we weren't able to conduct our normal activities (garage sale, bake sale, and craft fair). However, the Executive Board of UMW was able to disperse funds to three local missions partly because of the success of our popcorn sales. Thank you to everyone who purchased popcorn! UMW is supporting the following Missions with \$300 each: OhioGuidestone, Church Street Ministries Pantry, and the Berea Community Meal at St. Paul's Church. Supporting these vital organizations is essential to the Mission of our UMW.

Blessings all this Christmas Season.

Submitted by Jeanne Allen

UMW PROGRAM -FROM SERVED TO SERVANT

Tuesday, January 12 via Zoom

We all face our challenges in life and there are people who lift us up and strengthen us. God works in us during these times so that we may do the same for others.

The UMC of Berea played an enormous role in molding me to be the Servant I am today as Deaconess and a pastor's wife. For this I am grateful.

Deaconess Sherri Buehl

DECEMBER 2020

THE CALLER

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND DECK THE HALLS!



WARM-UP WITH SOME
EQUAL EXCHANGE
ITEMS
(FOR A GIFT OR FOR
YOURSELF)

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
BEFORE & AFTER THE 7 PM
EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Stop by before or after the 7 PM prayer service on the first Wednesday of the month to purchase some fair trade Equal Exchange coffee, tea, hot cocoa or chocolates and olive oil for yourself or to share with someone. Enjoy these items and know that you are helping farmers who use environmentally practices to earn a fair wage.

Peace and health to each of you, Wendy Jelinek for Church & Society

THE GIVING TREE "ADOPT" BY DECEMBER 6 RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 13



Look for the Giving Tree in either the Gathering Place or Wesley Hall. If you would like to adopt a needy child but will not be inside the church, you may call either **Pastor Carrie** at **440-665-8306** or **Betsy Meikle** at **440-243-5767** and they will read the list for you.

All gifts must be returned by December 13. When you return the gift, please <u>do not wrap it!</u> Place it in a bag with the child's family number and the name of the gift on the outside. You may put gifts in the big box beside the Giving Tree or give it to Betsy Meikle, who will be in the parking lot on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 AM-1 PM.

Thank you for considering helping a needy child have a happy Christmas!



DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT BUTTER PEAR.COM

ButterPear is a social enterprise supporting artists in East & West Africa and Refugees here in Cleveland. 100% of our items are HANDMADE and support the artists first. After we sell our products, we use the profits to support various programs. One program includes a house for orphans in Ganta, Liberia which sprung up after the Ebola outbreak. Other programming includes supporting school scholarships in various communities and working with young refugee entrepreneurs here in Cleveland.

We have ornaments, skirts, bags, and baskets! Perfect for a gift with a purpose! Sustainable, Ethical, & Eco-friendly!

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Wednesday Evenings, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Seminary Street in Front of the Red Doors

Collections of food for local food banks continue on Wednesdays. Collections will take place at the red front doors of the church. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation.

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 supporting this effort.



The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We join them this year, offering our gifts to support our community.

In lieu of poinsettias this year, we invite you to make a financial gift to support three of our mission partners - OhioGuidestone, Grindstone Elementary Emergency Fund, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. While we will have some poinsettias for our Christmas services, we will also have a tree decorated with stars, in honor or memory of your loved ones or families. Make any size donation and a star will be put on our tree with the name your request.

Donations may be mailed to the church, marking "Magi" in the other box.

You can also make your donation and complete the form online at www.umcb.org/donate.

Forms and donations must be returned /submitted online by **December 13**.

A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin as well as the January Caller.

CRISMON TREE ORNAMENT FORM

Your Name:					
	(as you wanted printed on the Bulletin listing)				
Your Phone:					
	(in case we have questions)				
In Memory of:					
In Honor of					
In Honor of:					

DONATIONS MUST RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 13, 2020.

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The United Methodist Church of Berea 170 Seminary Street Berea, OH 44017 www.umcb.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office (440-234-3525 or info@umcb.org) to remove your name from the mailing list.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

