

Worship Celebration

24th Sunday after Pentecost Commitment Sunday

November 15, 2020 + 9 AM and 11 AM

Our Five Essential Practices



Worship



Study



Serve



Give



Share

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, this week and every week:

Sunday at 9 AM in Wesley Hall (visit www.umcb.org/worship)

Sunday at 11 AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

Wednesday at 7 PM (Evening Prayer) in the Gathering Place

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 Song

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 brought with the precious love 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 brought with the precious love 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.*

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Generous God, you bless us with an abundance of your love.
We long to use the gifts you have entrusted to us to build your beloved community.
We yearn to live with gratitude for all that you do and all the opportunities you offer us.
Raise our understanding, Holy One, and help us to perceive clearly
the good we can do when we set aside fear and offer our all to you.
In your name and by your spirit, help us to live, worship, and pray. Amen.*

Hymn

O Day of God Draw Nigh

UMH 730

*O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.*

*Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.*

*Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.*

*Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.*

*O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.*

Public Domain

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.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 25.14-30 (CEB)

¹⁴“It is as if a man, who was leaving on a trip, called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

¹⁶“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. ¹⁸But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

¹⁹“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²²“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²⁴“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. ²⁵So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? ²⁷In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. ²⁸Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. ²⁹Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. ³⁰Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn

Reckless Love

*Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me. You have been so, so good to me.
Before I took a breath, you breathed your life in me. You have been so, so kind to me.*

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn’t earth it, I don’t deserve it, still you give yourself away.
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

*When I was your foe, still your love fought for me. You have been so, so good to me.
When I felt no worth, you paid it all for me. You have been so, so kind to me.*

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn’t earth it, I don’t deserve it, still you give yourself away.
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

*There’s no shadow you won’t light up, mountain you won’t climb up, coming after me.
There’s no wall you won’t kick down, lie you won’t tear down, coming after me.*

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn’t earth it, I don’t deserve it, still you give yourself away.
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

Reckless Love / Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson / 2017 Cory Asbury Publishing / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

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—"A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition"

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

*And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.*

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Covenant Prayer

WS 3115

Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone. Let your will be done and not my own.

Put me where you will, and let me serve; in everything I do, let me endure.

This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true.

And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Father, Son, and Spirit hear my cry, forever I am yours and you are mine.

Father, Son, and Spirit hear my cry, forever I am yours and you are mine.

This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true.

And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Let me be employed for you, laid aside for you, lifted high for you or brought low.

Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things or nothing.

Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone. Let your will be done and not my own.

Put me where you will, and let me serve; in everything I do, let me endure.

This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true.

And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Covenant Prayer / John Wesley, Jay D. Locklear, Adam Seate / 2008 Jay D. Locklear and Adam Seate
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Benediction

Clothed in faith and covered in love, let us leave this time of worship, going forth to serve.

Washed in joy and bathed in hope, let us blaze with the fire of God's Holy Spirit.

We are God's children, holy, loved, and loving.

May we leave this time of worship to live that truth into the world..

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Choral Response

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (v. 4)

UMH 581

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,

to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;

hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,

that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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Our service of worship is ended.

Our worship through service now begins.



Morning Prayer

Good morning, God.
I welcome the new day, for it is a gift from you.
My petty fears are nothing in the face of your love;
in the warmth of your wisdom
my anxieties melt away.
Make me more faithful than I could be on my own,
and use me to reflect your light,
for there are so many
who need to know your grace today.
Walk with me, and show me your way,
for I would follow you. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Good evening, God.
Thank you for bringing me through this day:
both its trials and its joys.
You surprise me with wonder
and overwhelm me with love.
Keep me in your embrace tonight;
inhabit my dreams.
If you choose to grant me another day of life,
awaken me as one who is eager to serve you well.
Amen.

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Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

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. 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,” please 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.



Our Five Essential Practices: Naming Our Commitments

Sunday, November 15

As a community of faith, we remain committed to making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We grow into the disciples God is calling each of us to be and become through the practice of “five essential practices”—worshiping, studying, serving, giving, and sharing—practices that have taken on an additional dimension this year, helping us to stay connected to one another even while we care for one another by staying physically apart.

On **Sunday, November 15**, we will renew our commitments to each of these five practices for the upcoming year. Commitment Cards will be distributed through the mail and email in late-October and will continue to be available on the website at www.umcb.org/donate. Please consider prayerfully your commitments to growing as a disciple, to our life together, and to our shared mission for 2021, and then join with us in naming those commitments for the coming year in the context of worship (in person at 9:00 AM; online at 11:00 AM) on November 15.



Reign of Christ Sunday

Sunday, November 22

Reign of Christ or “Christ the King” Sunday is one of the most recent additions to the Christian calendar. Begun in 1925, the celebration was intended as a response to growing secularism and competing claims for our allegiance, especially as narrow ideologies and tribalistic nationalism spread across much of Europe following the First World War.

Celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year (before the new year starts on the First Sunday of Advent), Reign of Christ Sunday remains for us an opportunity to worship together and to reaffirm the primacy of God’s presence and purposes in our lives and throughout creation.



Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 PM, online, (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

The entire Berea community will be invited to worship together online at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 25.

Our worship together will include readings and music provided from multiple congregations in our community, and you will be invited to make a financial contribution through our congregation to support the ongoing work of Berea Community Outreach, caring for our neighbors in need.

Give online at www.umcb.org/donate or by mailing a check to the church office.

Please mark “Thanksgiving” on the description line.



Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (In-Person)

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

All are welcome to join us in the Gathering Place on Wednesday evenings for brief worship services to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week. Please wear face masks 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.



Children's Faith Formation for Advent

Reservations are due by November 20.

This year, we are sending very special Advent keepsake books to our families with babies - elementary students. These books contain devotions for the 25 days of December, as well as pages to write responses for several years in a row. Instead of traditional Sunday School lessons, we are encouraging families to participate in this meaningful Advent practice throughout the month. Grandchildren of members are welcome recipients as well!

To reserve a copy of this book, please email Pastor Carrie (cantczak@umcb.org) with children's names, ages, and a mailing address.



Youth Group

Sunday, November 22, 5:00 PM, In the Metroparks

Youth are invited to join us in the Metroparks, November 22 at 5:00 PM for fun, games, and Bible Study. Rain location is the youth room with spacing and masks.

To RSVP or if you have questions, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Book Discussion: *The Anatomy of Peace - Resolving the Heart of Conflict*

Monday, November 30, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

What if conflicts at home, conflicts at work, and conflicts in the world all stem from the same root cause? What if we systematically misunderstand that root cause? And what if, as a result, we systematically perpetuate the very problems we think we are trying to solve?

In a current context that feels increasingly divided and contentious—around partisan politics and responses to our public health emergency and systemic racism and countless other issues—**The Anatomy of Peace** by the Arbinger Institute seeks to instill hope and inspire reconciliation by encouraging us to understand and then resolve conflicts at every level by addressing the heart of that division.

On Monday, November 30 at 6:30 PM, all are welcome and encouraged to join us for a discussion of this book. Books can be found through most online sellers and through our local library system. We will meet via Zoom, so you can join the conversation by phone or online.

To express your interest in participating and to receive Zoom login information, please contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, on Zoom

Thursday Night Bible Study has started a new book, **Matchless** by Angie Smith. *Who is Jesus? Why did He come to earth? How can I know Him? We live in a world where there's a lot of confusion about Jesus. Too often people want to shape Him and His message to fit their personal needs or agendas. So how can we know the truth?*

Please join us!

For more information, please contact

Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or marylynn482@gmail.com.



Children's and Youth Formation

We're off to a great start with faith formation. We would love to have you help share Bible stories with our kids! Email Pastor Carrie on how to pre-record a Bible story to be used in Sunday School.

Families with children need to join the Facebook Group found here to access family-led Sunday School: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/umcbsundayschool/>.

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/>.



Young Adult Bible Study

A young adult small group is beginning to form! They hope to meet online for Bible Study and later for fellowship and service projects. If you know a younger adult who might be interested, please invite them and share Pastor Carrie's contact information. This will be a mix of college students and young professionals.

Questions?

Please contact Pastor Carrie at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



House Churches

Your house neighbors are waiting! We would love to add more friends to our house churches. These small groups are meeting remotely or outdoors (while weather permits) for faith formation, fellowship, and prayer. Please be sure to fill out the registration form (link here) letting us know our interests.

Complete the interest form **online** at

<http://www.umcb.org/adult-formation-interest-form/>

or contact Pastor Carrie at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Warm up with some Equal Exchange items -- for yourself or for a gift

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 and Society*



Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00 PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop of 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.



Thanksgiving Meals for Pick-up or Delivery

Thursday, November 26, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Call 440-234-0609 for reservations.

Pick up your meal at the Peoples Community Church Parking Lot (631 North Rocky River Drive) or have it delivered to your home.

Interested in donating or volunteering? Call **440-234-0609**.



Luke 3:11 Mission

Saturday, November 28

We are kicking off our ministry with the homeless communities of Cleveland on November 28 by serving lunch and sharing valuable supplies. If you have gently used winter gear (jackets, hats, gloves), new socks, gently used sleeping bags, or small bundles of firewood, please bring these on Wednesday evenings to donate, or contact Pastor Carrie for another arrangement.

Financial donations to this ministry can be made through the website at www.umcb.org/donate, with "Luke 3:11" as the description in the *Other* box.

Questions?

Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



The Giving Tree is Here Now!

We have received gift requests from Berea Community Outreach for 14 children, and we have set up the tree with the stars in the Gathering Place. On Sunday mornings it will be in Wesley Hall. Of course, most of us will not be inside the church building, so if you would like to "adopt" a child, contact either **Pastor Carrie (440-665-8306, cantczak@umcb.org)** or **Betsy Meikle (440-243-5767)**. We will share the gift choices for you. Anyone who would like to participate but is hesitant to shop at this time may express your request, and we will do the shopping!

Thank you for considering this important local mission to help needy children in this area enjoy a good Christmas!



UMW loves Popcorn...and Christmas Ornaments!

UMW is taking pre-orders for holiday popcorn flavors...

Candy Cane (chocolate + peppermint) \$6,

Santa's Snack Mix (cinnamon + apple) \$5,

Depot Delight (caramel + cheddar) \$5.

They also have lovely handmade Christmas ornaments available.

Place your order by contacting Carol McCleery at mcmantee7250@gmail.com or **440-234-9078**.

Delivery will be the week after Thanksgiving.

As always, we thank you for your support and encouragement. Women, youth, and children will benefit from your kindness and generosity.