



... the groom came,
AND THOSE WHO WERE READY
went with him
into wedding ...

Matthew 25:10 (CEB)

Worship Celebration

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020 + 9 AM and 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, 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

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.

It is rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.

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

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

***Lord of life, we worship this day, seeking to follow the ways you set before us.
We long to have the courage to choose you, O God, each and every day.
We yearn for the faith to wait patiently, through the long watches of the night—
for we want to be found ready for the future you are creating.
Fill our lamps with your grace, that we might share your light with the world.
In your name, we worship, live, and pray. Amen.***

***For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.***

***Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.***

Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.

***All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.***

In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.

***You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and serving earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.***

For the Healing of the Nations / Fred Kaan, John Hughes / 1968 Hope Publishing Co. / 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—Joshua 24.1-3a, 14-25 (CEB)

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. ²Then Joshua said to the entire people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates. They served other gods. Among them was Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. ³I took Abraham your ancestor from the other side of the Euphrates.....

¹⁴"So now, revere the LORD. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the LORD."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "God forbid that we ever leave the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷The LORD is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we've gone and in all the nations through which we've passed. ¹⁸The LORD has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

¹⁹Then Joshua said to the people, "You can't serve the LORD, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won't forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰If you leave the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn around and do you harm and finish you off, in spite of having done you good in the past."

²¹Then the people said to Joshua, "No! The LORD is the one we will serve."

²²So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD."

They said, "We are witnesses!"

²³"So now put aside the foreign gods that are among you. Focus your hearts on the LORD, the God of Israel."

²⁴The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and will obey him."

²⁵On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people and established just rule for them at Shechem.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 25.1-13 (CEB)

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. ²Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but didn’t bring oil for them. ⁴But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

⁵“When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’

⁷“Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’

⁹“But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won’t be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

¹¹“Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’

¹²“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn

Give Me Jesus

WS 3140

*In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.*

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

*I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say, give me Jesus.*

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

*Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.*

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

*Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.*

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

*Give Me Jesus / Public Domain / 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Company
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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.

*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

*We gather our hearts before you, O God, with gifts you have entrusted to us
for the well-being of the world.*

We bring you these offerings as a symbol of our choice to follow you.

Receive these gifts of love, that they may go forth as your blessing to the world. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

The Story I'll Tell

*The hour is dark and it's hard to see
what you are doing here in the ruins and where this will lead.*

Oh, but I know that down through the years

I'll look on this moment and see your hand on it and know you were here.

I'll testify of the battles you've won, how you were my portion when there wasn't enough.

I'll testify of the seas that we've crossed, the waters you parted, the waves that I've walked.

Oh, oh, oh. My God did not fail. Oh, oh, oh. It's the story I'll tell.

Oh, oh, oh. I know it is well. Oh, oh, oh. It's the story I'll tell.

Believing gets hard when options are few.

When I can't see what you're doing, I know that you're proving you're the God who comes through.

Oh, but I know that over the years

I'll look back on this moment and see your hand on it and know you were here.

I'll testify of the battles you've won, how you were my portion when there wasn't enough.

I'll testify of the seas that we've crossed, the waters you parted, the waves that I've walked.

Oh, oh, oh. My God did not fail. Oh, oh, oh. It's the story I'll tell.

Oh, oh, oh. I know it is well. Oh, oh, oh. It's the story I'll tell.

All that is left is highest praises. So sing hallelujah to the Rock of Ages.

I'll testify of the battles you've won, how you were my portion when there wasn't enough.

I'll sing the song of the seas that we've crossed, the waters you parted, the waves that I've walked.

Oh, oh, oh. My God did not fail. Oh, oh, oh. It's the story I'll tell.

Oh, oh, oh. I know it is well. Oh, oh, oh. It's the story I'll tell.

The Story I'll Tell / Naomi Raine, Benji Cowart, Alton Eugene / Heritage Worship Music Publishing

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Benediction

May we go forth today, keeping our lamps burning brightly.

May we go with hearts ablaze with God's love.

May we go with lives kindled with the call to serve.

May we go to enter into fullness of life, embracing the life we have received.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Choral Response

Keep Your Lamps

***Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.***

***Children don't get weary, children don't get weary,
children don't get weary, 'til your work is done.***

***Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.***

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

Morning Prayer

Creator of all, I wake to the day you have made
with praise on my lips,
for your Spirit gives me breath.
May I live this day for the sake of Jesus,
the light of the world, the apple of my eye,
my beginning and my end. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Creator of all, you make the night for peace and rest.
In the moon and stars we see the reflection of your
eternal light,
so whether we live or whether we die,
we know that we belong to you.
Keep watch over those who work through the night;
give peace to those who cannot sleep.
Let me surrender all anxiety and fear
to your loving embrace,
that I may wake again to serve you with joy. 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.



2020 Charge Conference

Monday, November 9, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

On Monday, November 9, we will gather on Zoom with ten other area congregations for our annual charge conference. This is our yearly meeting in which we gather to celebrate God's activity in our life together throughout the past year and to conduct official business in preparation for the year to come with the guidance of our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Steve Bailey.

All members of the Church Council are encouraged to participate in this meeting with voice and vote. If you plan to participate, please contact Pastor Nathan (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) by **November 5**. Details for connecting are still being finalized.



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.



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.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

November 9, 6:30-8:00 PM, on Zoom

We invite YOU to join us on Monday, October 12, from 6:30-8:00PM as we discuss **Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again** by Rachel Held Evans. (This book was not discussed in April 2020 because of COVID-19.)

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

By phone: 1-888-788-0099

Meeting ID: 812 5928 8501 (no password)

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.



Surviving the Holidays

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Are you 'dreading' the Holidays? Not sure what to expect from others, even your own emotions after losing a loved one? Come join us and you will be given the tools to help you through the Holidays.

How to handle the parties, invitations...What to do about traditions and other changes coming your way...Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time.

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85724185396>

By Phone: 888-788-0099

Meeting ID: 857 2418 5396

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



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.



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 will be starting a new book in November, **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.



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 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.



Love Your Neighbors: Leaf Raking

November 14, 9:00 AM, Meet at Smith Elementary

We encourage all who are able to join us in Berea Community Outreach's annual leaf-raking day, November 14th beginning at 9 am. We will meet at Smith Elementary to pick up local addresses of seniors or other disabled persons who are unable to attend to their lawns. This will also serve as our youth fall service project. Be sure to bring a rake, leaf blower, and any other tools you'd like. As always this year, bring a mask.

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



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**.

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

mcmanistee7250@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.

