

Worship Celebration

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021 + 11 AM

**HUMAN
RELATIONS
DAY**

“None of us alone can save the nation or the world. But each of us can make a positive difference if we commit ourselves to do so.”

CORNEL WEST, AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

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

Monday—Friday at 9 am (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7 pm (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

By and By

Spiritual arr. Wm. Farley Smith

Words of Welcome

Choral Introit

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (v. 1)

UMH 474

***Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

Precious Lord, Take My Hand / Thomas A. Dorsey / 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., renewed
Used by permission. One License, A-737772

Opening Prayer

***Precious Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You call us, inviting us to venture out on a journey of love.
In the mystery of your love, you perceive who we are and who we might become.
Our bodies are your creation: each of them, wonderfully made.
Our minds reflect your handiwork: each of them, a gift.
Our spirits bear your own image and an opportunity to connect with others.
Call us by name today, Creating God, and give us the courage to follow.
Lead us into the depths of your love. Take our hands, and lead us home. Amen.***

Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

***Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.***

***Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.***

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.*

Children's Message

First Lesson—1 Samuel 3.1-20 (CEB)

¹ Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. ² One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. ³ God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest was.

⁴ The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

⁵ Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

⁶ Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(⁷ Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

⁸ A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

¹⁰ Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

¹¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! ¹² On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it! ¹³ I told him that I would punish his family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God, but he wouldn't stop them. ¹⁴ Because of that I swore about Eli's household that his family's wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering."

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the LORD's house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel, saying: "Samuel, my son!"

"I'm here," Samuel said.

¹⁷ "What did he say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

"He is the LORD," Eli said. "He will do as he pleases."

¹⁹ So Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not allowing any of his words to fail. ²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was trustworthy as the LORD's prophet.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 1.43-51 (CEB)

⁴³ The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth."

⁴⁶ Nathanael responded, "Can anything from Nazareth be good?"

Philip said, "Come and see."

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, "Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are God's Son. You are the king of Israel."

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! ⁵¹ I assure you that you will see heaven open and God's angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Son of Man."

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

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith—A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
***to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one in divine love for the world.***

Today is the day God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life, weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference, favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God deploras violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness, humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace, exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

*Today is the day God brings good news to the poor, proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and sets the oppressed free.*

And so shall we.

Hymn

We Utter Our Cry (vv. 1-2, 4-6)

UMH 439

***We utter our cry: the peace may prevail, that earth will survive, and faith must not fail.
We pray with our life for the world in our care, for people diminished by doubt and despair.***

***We cry from the fright of our daily scene for strength to say "No" to all that is mean:
designs bearing chaos, extinction of life, all energy wasted on weapons of death.***

***Creator of life, come, share out, we pray, your Spirit on earth, revealing the Way
to leaders conferring round tables for peace, that they may from bias and guile be released.***

***Come with us, Lord; love, in protest and march, and help us to fire with passion your church,
to match all our statements and lofty resolve with being, un-resting, in action involved.***

***Whatever the ill or pressure we face, Lord, hearten and heal, give insight and grace
to think and make peace with each heart-beat and breath,
choose Christ before Caesar and life before death!***

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.***

Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

God, you are the source of all goodness and life.

We bring our offerings to you this day, knowing that all we have comes from you.

We hear your call and we dare to respond, bringing all that we have and all that we are.

Use our gifts, our talents, our bodies, and our voices

for your work of peace and justice for all creation. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

You Hold It All Together

You come at the right time, when I least expect it, never behind.

So why would I be surprised when you deliver every time?

On mountaintops, you stay the same. In valleys low, you never change.

And I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord.

I'm confident as seasons change, your faithfulness remains.

You go, you go before me to prepare a blessing; you make away.

It's more than I could imagine, more than I can fathom or comprehend.

On mountaintops, you stay the same. In valleys low, you never change.

And I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord.

I'm confident as seasons change, your faithfulness remains.

God of my present, God of my future, you write my story; you hold it all together.

*You Hold It All Together / Alton Eugene, Edward Rivera, Elyssa Smith, Garrett Abel, Naomi Raine
2020 Heritage Worship Music Publishing / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

Benediction

God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, calls us to follow,
entrusting us with the work of building the beloved community.

May we go in Jesus' name, sharing the good news of God's unconditional love.

May we go in peace, trusting that God loves us.

May we go to follow the call of that love, surrounded by God's blessings every step of the way.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Choral Response

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (v. 2)

UMH 474

***When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

Precious Lord, Take My Hand / Thomas A. Dorsey / 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., renewed
Used by permission. One License, A-737772

Postlude

Someone's Singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah

arr. John Behnke

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Nathan Howe

Rev. Carrie Antczak

Music

Dr. Barbara MacGregor, Organist

Courtney Popp, Choir Director

Video Production

Mark Williams

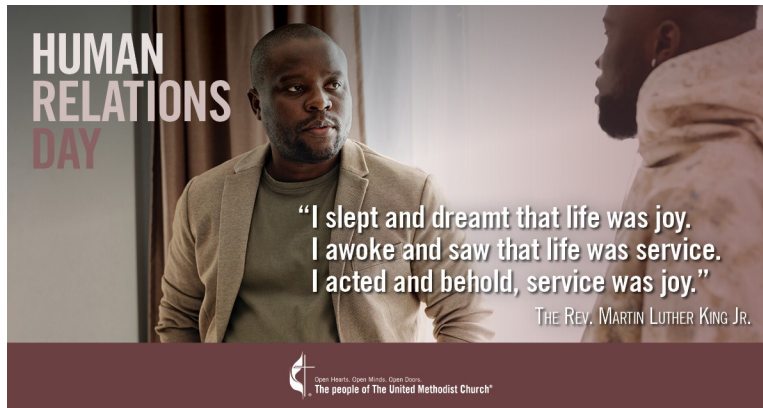
Morning Prayer

As I rise this day, O God,
I give you thanks for breath and life,
for the people I will see today
and for those whose ways challenge me.
Help me to give thanks especially
for those who pull me into new understandings
and show me sides of life I have not known.
Urge me to follow you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

As the evening comes & the time for rest draws
near,
I give you thanks, O God,
for another day filled with you.
I have not done everything I had hoped to do.
I have not forgiven myself or others as I ought.
I ask now that you, who know me through &
through,
will lead me to let go of what I cannot change.
Guard my sleep, and let me rise renewed;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.
Copyright 2013.*



Today is Human Relations Day

While extending help and serving abroad for the sake of the Great Commission is a real and important thing, so is loving our neighbor at home. We are called to both. Human Relations Day is a powerful avenue to extend help and service to our local communities. It is about getting out of our comfortable social circles and offering love and care to those who need help in our neighborhoods and cities. It's about walking with those who feel like everything in life is stacked against them. Helping those on the margins and offering a message of hope.

Together as a church, we participate in helping our communities and being a bright light at home. Giving on Human Relations Day nurtures at-risk youth, strengthens communities' self-improvement efforts, and advocates for the oppressed. Let's become more comfortable with being outside our social circles than we are within them. Let's be more like Jesus, together, on Human Relations Day.

Please consider giving generously. Learn more at <https://youtu.be/risGxXqW2IE>.



Monday, January 18

Heralded as a feminist freedom-fighter in the U.S. and now a global icon, **Opal Tometi** is one of the most influential human rights leaders of our time. As one of the three women co-founders of the **Black Lives Matter (BLM)** movement, her name is etched in American history. For years, the award-winning advocate, strategist and writer has used her voice to ensure that race, immigration and gender justice remain at the forefront of global conversations.

Opal will share her inspiring story of human rights advocacy work and social entrepreneurship as part of BW's observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** and **Enduring Questions: The Mark Collier Lecture Series**.

Event is FREE and open to the public. Tickets are required.

Zoom event link to be emailed in early January, 2021.

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=119453>



Additional 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

via Zoom (Meeting id: 848 4741 1964, Passcode: 195510)

All are welcome to join us for a brief worship service to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



Blessing of Homes

Post-Epiphany - Contact Pastor Nathan to Schedule

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.



Disciple Fast Track

Sundays - new members welcome!

9:45-11 AM, via Google Meet

Have you ever wanted to learn about the WHOLE Bible and what it means to be a Disciple? Whether you are curious about faith, new to Christianity, or have been a Christian your whole life, this Bible study will give you the opportunity to get a big picture look at the Bible. Join us for deep discussion and spiritual care. This is an online Bible study using Google Meet, so it doesn't matter your location! Expect about 15-20 minutes a day of "homework". And yes, we will cover MOST of the Bible in the course of a year, but just the Old Testament this winter/spring.

Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105 to sign up ASAP, so we can get you a book. We began today, but anticipate new members joining throughout the month.



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.



Mugs with a Message

Donations accepted until February 5

Help our mission partner with their school wide-service project!

The Grindstone K-Kids and Mrs. Johnson are working together to sponsor a school wide appreciation campaign to show our thanks and gratitude to our Local Frontline Workers; Berea Police, Fire, Southwest Hospital, and local Nursing Facilities by sending Mugs with a Message.

We are asking that each student and/or staff donate a new/gently used mug. UMCB, you can donate mugs to kids and teachers to put notes in! (Each student and staff member will be given a paper heart to write a short note of thanks for the sacrifice and dedication our frontline workers have demonstrated these past ten months.)

There will be tables outside of Grindstone Elementary up shortly. Just stop by and drop off your mug at your convenience. Each mug will get a heart note of thanks in it, as well as a packet of hot chocolate and will then be given to a frontline worker. **We would like to have mugs and hearts by Friday, February 5th in order to deliver them before February 14th.**

Thank you!

Mrs. Johnson & Pastor Carrie (cantcak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105).



Have a Heart: Supporting OhioGuidestone

Donations accepted January 17-February 15

In the spirit of Jesus Christ, UMCB is about to launch a service project to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. We are supporting the work of our ministry partner, OhioGuidestone, by collecting much needed items for their residential youth. Please consider donating: Coats, hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap), youth size clothing (Juniors and young men, XS-3X), underwear and undershirts, and socks. All of these items must be new. Gently used coats may be donated to be shared with other local outreach projects.

A collection box will be out in front of the church at the main entrance on Seminary Street. Volunteers will be posted either inside the church entrance or in the parking lot to monitor collections and thank you for your donations. Please stop by Wednesdays from 4-7pm, or Saturdays from 10-1. The donation dates range from January 17-February 15.

Questions?

Contact **Laura Rushton** at (jlaurush@aol.com) or
Pastor Carrie (cantcak@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.



Loose Change Offering

Wow, would it be nice to hear our handfuls of loose change "clink clank" on the offering plate again! As a congregation committed to mission, our loose change offering gave a "boost" to the missions and programs that are strengthening our church and communities near and far. We would like to start back up the offering for 2021, even though we won't have the joy of "noisy change". Look for a highlighted mission each month in the Caller. You can support by either mailing in an offering, or doing so electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box to donate the mission or simply "loose change offering".

January's Loose Change Offering will support the Sager Brown Mission. Please share your **LOVE, JOY, & HOPE** through your gifts to Loose Change.

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.