



Worship Celebration

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

United Methodist Women Sunday

January 10, 2021 + 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 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

Choral Introit

Breath of God, Breath of Peace

WS 3145

***Breath of God, Breath of peace, Breath of love, Breath of life, Breath of justice,
Breath of passion, Breath creating, Breath of healing, Breath of singing, Breath of praying,
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Breath of God.***

***Word of God, Word of peace, Word of love, Word of life, Word of justice,
Word of passion, Word creating, Word of healing, Word of singing, Word of praying,
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Word of God.***

*Breath of God, Breath of Peace / Adam M.L. Tice, Sally Ann Morris / 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.
Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Word of God, speak, for we, your servants, are listening.
Spirit of creation and renewal, hover over our worship today
as you hovered over creation on the first day.
Enter our hearts and lives as you did at the day of our baptism.
Descend on us like a dove as you did on the day of Jesus' baptism,
and help us to hear again your words of love and claim.
Speak from the heavens into our minds,
that we may perceive your words of guidance and wisdom. Amen.*

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—Mark 1.4-11(CEB)

⁴John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁵Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. ⁶John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. ¹¹And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

Down to the River to Pray

WS 3164

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.*

O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.*

O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.*

O fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, fathers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.*

O mothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, mothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

Renewing Our Baptismal Covenant

Beloved in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism,
God's spirit has been poured out upon water,
water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today, we come to these waters to renew our commitments in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us, to the Spirit who has birthed us,
and to the Creator who is making all things new.

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death,
renouncing the spiritual forces of wickedness,
rejecting the evil powers of this world, and repenting of your sin?

We will.

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be,
accepting the freedom and power God gives us
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

We will.

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ,
being Christ's body on earth?

We will.

Will you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, putting your whole trust in God's grace,
and promising to serve Christ as Lord, in union with the church
which Christ has opened to people of all cultures, ages, and ethnicities,
all sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities?

We will.

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together,
wherever you are and in all that you do,
remaining faithful members of Christ's holy church
and serving as Christ's representatives in the world?

We will.

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith
as contained in the scriptures and the life and ministry of Jesus the Christ,
putting your whole trust in God, One in Three and Three in One?

We will.

The Spirit of the Lord is with us. ***Even so, come, Lord Jesus!***

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.

Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit,
or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound
and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit! Come upon these waters.

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy and grace.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Christ.

Let these waters make us long for your beloved community.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father! **Glory to you!**
Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord! **Glory to you!**
Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness! **Glory to you!**
Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One! **All glory is yours, now and forever! Amen.**

You are invited to have a bit of water near you. Dipping your finger into the water, you may trace the sign of the cross on your forehead, remembering that you are baptized, remembering that you are named and claimed as God's beloved child.

Hymn

Breath of God, Breath of Peace

WS 3145

***Voice of God, Voice of peace, Voice of love, Voice of life, Voice of justice,
Voice of passion, Voice creating, Voice of healing, Voice of singing, Voice of praying,
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Voice of God.***

*Breath of God, Breath of Peace / Adam M.L. Tice, Sally Ann Morris / 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.
Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

Remember that you are baptized and be thankful.
The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has given us already.

As members together in the body of Christ

***and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we will faithfully live as disciples through the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified and the beloved community may be revealed.***

The God of all grace, who has called us,
now establish and strengthen us in the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we may live together in grace and peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Second Lesson—John 9.1-9 (CEB)

¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. ² Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?"

³ Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. ⁴ While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means *sent*). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

⁸ The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

⁹ Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him."

But the man said, "Yes, it's me!"

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

"How are God's Works Displayed?"

Deaconess Sherri Buehl
Church and Community Engagement Coordinator
at Flat Rock Homes

***Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.***

***Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.***

***Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.***

***Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.***

***Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.***

Loving Spirit / Shirley Erena Murray / 1987 admin. by Hope Publishing Co. / 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.***

Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

***Bless these gifts with your voice, your healing, and your love, O God.
Transform what we offer into abundant gifts
for a world in need of your life and love. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

UMH 420

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.***

Public Domain

Benediction

Amid a noisy world, let us make way to listen for God.

On busy days and on days of leisure, let us make time to listen for God.

For in the listening, we will hear this truth:

we are beloved children of God—created in love, created for love, created to love.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

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



The United Methodist Women have donated the altar flowers today to commemorate our missions locally and worldwide.

Please join us following the service for a Zoom discussion session with Deaconess Buehl.

To connect online, [click here](#).

To connect by phone,
dial **1-888-788-0099** and enter meeting id **878 1505 0844**.

Morning Prayer

Living God, maker of light,
thank you for the gift of this day.

Let me be a light in your world
so that others will look at me
and perceive the goodness of your creation;
in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Living God, maker of light,
thank you for the gift of this night.

Let me be at peace in your presence
so that I may rest, be restored,
and arise to praise your glory;
in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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



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>

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.



Human Relations Sunday

Sunday, January 17

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 on Human Relations Day.

Learn more at <https://youtu.be/risGxXqW2IE>.



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.



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** on Sunday, January 10 through your gifts to Loose Change.