



Worship Celebration

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 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

The Church's One Foundation

S.S. Wesley

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

Loving God, love through us, as we worship your holy name.

Love through us, as we listen for your still-speaking word.

Love through us, as we seek to live your teachings and offer your love to one another.

In our worship and in our lives, love us into your likeness

that your love might flow freely through us,

bringing your peace with justice to the world. Amen.

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 Corinthians 8.1-13 (CEB)

¹ Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. ²If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. ³But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

⁴So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. ⁵Granted, there are so-called "gods," in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. ⁶However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father. All things come from him, and we belong to him.

And there is one Lord Jesus Christ. All things exist through him, and we live through him.

⁷But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. ⁸Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. ⁹But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. ¹⁰Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? ¹¹The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹²You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. ¹³This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Mark 1.21-28 (CEB)

²¹Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. ²²The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. ²³Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, ²⁴"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

²⁵"Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" ²⁶The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

²⁷Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, "What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!" ²⁸Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH 560

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.***

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!*

*Help Us Accept Each Other / Fred Kaan, John Ness Beck / 1975, 1977 Hope Publishing Co.
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Prayers of the People and 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

Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)

TFWS 2179

Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity; God will dwell with you.

*Ubi Caritas (Live in Charity) / Jacques Berthier / 1979 Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc.
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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Holy God, the offerings we bring to you are symbols of our gratitude and love.
Bless them, that they may be transformed into acts of love and grace.
Then bless us, too, that we may transform the world with your justice and peace,
in gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

New Wine

*In the crushing, in the pressing you are making new wine.
In the soil I now surrender, you are breaking new ground.
So, I yield to you and to your careful hand. When I trust you I don't need to understand.
Make me your vessel, make me an offering. Make me whatever you want me to be.
I came here with nothing, but all you have given me. Jesus, bring new wine out of me.*

*Jesus, bring new wine out of me. Jesus, bring new wine out of me.
'Cause where there is new wine there is new power.
There is new freedom and the kingdom is here.
I lay down my old flames to carry your new fire today.*

***So, make me your vessel, make me an offering. Make me whatever you want me to be.
God, I came here with nothing, but all you have given me. Jesus, bring new wine out of me.***

New Wine / Brooke Ligertwood / 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Benediction

Go now from this time of worship to love as beloved children of God.
Go to live as living signs of Christ's presence with your neighbors.
Go to transform the world through the power of the Holy Spirit who is with us, now and always.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Closing Song

My Savior My God

***I am not skilled to understand what God has willed, what God has planned.
I only know at his right hand stands one who is my savior.
I take him at his word and deed. Christ died to save me, this I read.
And in my heart I find a need of him to be my savior.***

***That he would leave his place on high and come for sinful man to die,
you count it strange, so once did I before I knew my savior.
My savior loves. My savior lives. My savior's always there for me.
My God he was. My God he is. My God is always going to be.***

***Yes, living, dying let me bring my strength, my solace from this spring
that he who lives to be my king once died to be my savior.***

***That he would leave his place on high and come for sinful man to die,
you count it strange, so once did I before I knew my savior.
My savior loves. My savior lives. My savior's always there for me.
My God he was. My God he is. My God is always going to be.***

*My Savior My God / Aaron Shust, Dorothy Dora Greenwell / 2005 Bridge Building Music, Inc.
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***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Music

Dr. Barbara MacGregor,
Organist, Pianist
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Pianist*
Jeremy Piper, *Praise Band Leader*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

In the light of your new day, O God,
I rise to greet you always on the path in front of me.
Let me follow with integrity where you will lead.
Give me courage to know the difference
between what is false and what is true.
Teach me to love my neighbor as you do. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Holy One, you are the power above all powers,
the healer who knows our every need.
You have guided me throughout this day
and now give me sleep to renew
my tired body and mind.
Guard me and keep me in your care. Amen.

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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.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17, 7 PM

Online at www.facebook.com/umcberea/live

The season of Lent—forty days of preparing for Easter—begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 17. Join us in worship online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) at 7 pm for a worship service including the imposition of ashes and sharing Holy Communion. Please watch upcoming bulletins and weekly emailed newsletters for more information as we get closer to the day.



Ash
WEDNESDAY



Share a story of faith

Share a story of faith in the daily prayer emails. While we are not producing a paper Lenten devotional this year, we are asking for your stories! Simply write a short reflection and add a prayer if you choose.

For a Scripture and date, contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101(beginning now!)

Lent-in-a-Box

Register for a box and receive a code to pick it up February 7-14 just inside our main red doors.

Pick up “**Lent-in-a-Box**” February 7-14 on our church porch. In these boxes you’ll find devotional materials for the whole family and other fun things you can hold and use as you creatively explore “Where Your Heart Is” this Lent. Ash Wednesday and other prayer resources will be included. Please pick up one per household!

To reserve a box or to arrange delivery, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x 105.

Virtual Pancake Dinner

February 16, 6:30PM

February 16 is known as “Fat Tuesday” and a fun tradition to use up the goodies in the house is to make pancakes for dinner. We’re inviting you to our Virtual Pancake Dinner! We anticipate a crowd, and so will use small break out rooms. Simply make your pancakes, join the zoom room, and enjoy a sweet dinner with your church family!

For the zoom link, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x 105.

Women’s Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Come join us for the Women’s Bible Study on Thursday evenings. We will continue our study of **Fierce Hearted** by Holley Gerth. “*This will take us to new levels with the Lord as we learn to embrace the unique kind of bravery He has placed inside of us*”.

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

GriefShare Welcomes New Participants

Tuesdays via Zoom

We started a new session of GriefShare on January 12, 2020. New participants 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).



Equal Exchange

Wednesday, February 3, 6:30-7:15 pm, in the church vestibule

Give Equal Exchange chocolate to your special valentine and make someone else's life a little sweeter. Equal Exchange items will be available for purchase on the first Wednesday of each month in the church vestibule from 6:30-7:15 PM. Unable to come to the church? Contact the **church office** at info@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100 and it may be possible to make other arrangements.



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.

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.

Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

As an expression of love for our neighbors and for the well-being of our entire community, each of us is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when we are eligible to do so.

Beginning February 1, Ohioans age 70 and over will be eligible. Cuyahoga County residents seeking information about how and where to receive the vaccine are encouraged to visit <https://cuyahogacounty.us/vax> or www.ccbh.net/covid-19-phase-1b-provider-list or to call 2-1-1 (United Way's 211 HelpLink) on weekdays between 8 am and 4 pm.

If you have additional questions or can use assistance navigating this process, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Nathan at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.