

From the cloud came a



Worship Celebration

Transfiguration Sunday

February 14, 2021 + 11 AM

*"This is my Son,
the Beloved;
listen to him!"*

MARK 9:7, NRSV

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

Fantasia in C

J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome

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—Mark 9.2-4 (CEB)

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. Jesus was transfigured in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus.

Hymn

Holy Ground

TFWS 2272

***We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.***

Holy Ground / Geron Davis / 1983 Meadowgreen Music Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Gospel Lesson—Mark 9.5-9 (CEB)

Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re here. Let’s make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He said this because he didn’t know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Hymn

We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding

TFWS 2103

***We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace.***

***Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.***

***Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.***

***Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.***

***Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,
we, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.***

***But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.***

*We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding / Carl P. Daw, Ralph Vaughn Williams / 1988 Hope Publishing, Co.
Used by permission. One License, A-737772*

We Grow in God’s Word

Children’s Message

Scripture Lesson—2 Kings 2.1-12 (CEB)

¹ Now the LORD was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

³ The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?”

Elisha said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

⁴ Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

⁵ The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

⁶ Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So both of them went on together. ⁷ Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. ⁸ Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “What do you want me to do for you before I’m taken away from you?”

Elisha said, "Let me have twice your spirit."

¹⁰ Elijah said, "You've made a difficult request. If you can see me when I'm taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don't see me, it won't happen."

¹¹ They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

¹² Elisha was watching, and he cried out, "Oh, my father, my father! Israel's chariots and its riders!" When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (vv. 1-3)

UMH 703

*Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;
swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*

*I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home.*

*Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;
swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*

*If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home;
tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home.*

*Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;
swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*

*I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, coming for to carry me home;
but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home.*

*Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;
swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*

Public Domain

Sermon

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

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 of light and love, shine through the gifts we bring before you.

Speak through our hearts and our actions.

Bless our gifts, our offerings, and our very lives,

that we may bless others with your loving presence. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Here As In Heaven

*The atmosphere is changing now, for the Spirit of the Lord is here.
The evidence is all around that the Spirit of the Lord is here.
Overflow in this place, fill our hearts with your love; your love surrounds us.
You're the reason we came, to encounter your love, your love surrounds us.*

*Spirit of God, fall fresh on us; we need your presence.
Your kingdom come, your will be done here as in heaven.*

*A miracle can happen now, for the Spirit of the Lord is here.
The evidence is all around that the Spirit of the Lord is here.*

*Here As In Heaven / Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Wade Joyce, Matthew Ntlele, Mack Brock
2015 Elevation Worship Publishing / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

Benediction

May the brightness of God light our way.

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be our close companion.

May the love of Christ flow through us into the world, this day and every day.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Jesus, My Joy

J.S. Bach

***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*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Pianist*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

God of glory, I greet you now
at the dawning of this new day.
Let my life proclaim Christ Jesus
and the good news of the gospel
from the rising of the sun to its setting;
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

God of glory, I greet you
at the ending of this day.
Overshadow me now with your peace,
and make me to rest in your presence
from the setting of the sun to its rising;
to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

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.

****Update** - While working from home, the church office manager, Beth can be reached by email (ebarner@umcb.org), by leaving a voicemail on the church office phone (440-234-3525 x100) or by calling 440-710-4498. Voicemails left at either number will be answered during office hours (9AM-3PM weekdays).



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.



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.



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.



Book Discussion: *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman

Monday, March 1, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Howard Thurman's theology and ministry has played a leading role in social justice movements and organizations throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. He was one of the principal architects of the modern nonviolent civil rights movement and a key mentor to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who reportedly carried with him a copy of *Jesus and the Disinherited* throughout the Montgomery bus boycott.

As our world and our churches continue to struggle with issues related to poverty, white supremacy, anger, and distrust, all are welcome to read and join together for a discussion of this important and influential book. Books can be borrowed from most public library systems or purchased through most online sellers.

If you need help finding a copy—and to express your interest in participating in the discussion on March 1 and to receive Zoom login information—please contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



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.



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.



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.

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 8, Ohioans age 65 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.