



# Worship Celebration

February 21, 2021 + 11 AM

FIRST SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT

*Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word, "lent," comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, lencten, meaning "spring" and referring to the lengthening of days this time of year. Historically, Lent began as a season of fasting and preparation especially for new converts to Christianity who would be baptized on Easter Sunday. It is now a season of preparation for all of us as we look forward to Jesus' resurrection at Easter and prepare to live in the world as God's Easter people. The main color in worship during this season of preparation and penitence is purple.*

## **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 11AM online ([www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos](http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)) and in the Sanctuary

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

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

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*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**

*Lord, I Want to be a Christian*

Spiritual, arr. Hal Hopson

**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 1.9-15 (CEB)**

<sup>9</sup>About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River.

<sup>10</sup>While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. <sup>11</sup>And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

<sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

<sup>14</sup>After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, <sup>15</sup>saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

**Hymn**

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

UMH 269

***Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.***

***As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.***

***As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.***

***And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,  
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.***

***Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.***

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## **We Grow in God's Word**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture Lesson—Genesis 9.8-17 (CEB)**

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, <sup>10</sup>and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. <sup>11</sup>I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

<sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. <sup>13</sup>I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. <sup>16</sup>The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth."

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

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

#### **Scripture Lesson—1 Peter 3.18-22 (CEB)**

<sup>18</sup>Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

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

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

### **Sermon**

*God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars  
 How does the creatures say Awe How does the creature say Praise  
 God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast  
 How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save  
 God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave  
 How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks  
 God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal  
 How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life  
 God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook  
 How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace  
 God of the ages God near at hand God the loving heart  
 How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home.*

*God of the Sparrow God of the Whale / Jaroslav Vajda, Carl Schalk / 1983 Concordia Publishing House; GIA Publications, Inc.  
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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](http://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

*(to the tune of Amazing Grace, UMH 378)*

*Praise God our Maker, Christ the Son, who came to walk this earth.  
 Through joy and pain he knows our life, with Spirit, gives new birth.*

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### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*You are the One who saves us, O God.  
 We offer our gifts and our lives to you and to your saving purposes in this world.  
 Receive us and our gifts, and transform them, multiply them, and use them to heal this world.  
 May the blessings of your Holy Spirit flow into every place,  
 assuring each person that they are your beloved child. Amen.*

## We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

### Hymn

*Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*

*All these pieces broken and scattered, in mercy gathered, mended and whole.  
 Empty handed but not forsaken. I've been set free, I've been set free.  
 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
 Oh, I once was lost but now I am found. Was blind but now I see.  
 Oh, I can see you now, oh, I can see the love in your eyes.  
 Laying yourself down, raising up the broken to life.  
 You take our failure, you take our weakness. You set your treasure in jars of clay.  
 So take this heart, Lord, I'll be your vessel. The world to see your life in me.  
 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.*

*Oh, I once was lost but now I am found. Was blind but now I see.  
Oh, I can see you now, oh, I can see the love in your eyes.  
Laying yourself down, raising up the broken to life.*

*Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) / Joel Houston, Jonas Myrin  
2014 Hillsong MP Songs / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

### **Benediction**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. Now the Spirit sends us there, too.  
Like Jesus before us, may we settle in, make strange companions, endure temptations,  
and trust in God's grace.  
And in so doing, may we learn to live Jesus' way. Go in peace.  
***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

### **Postlude**

*Amazing Grace*

traditional hymn

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

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### **Worship Participants**

#### **Pastors**

Rev. Nathan Howe  
Rev. Carrie Antczak

#### **Music**

Dr. Barbara MacGregor, *Organ*  
Gwen Chevillard, *Flute*  
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*  
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Piano*

#### **Video Production**

Mark Williams

#### ***Morning Prayer***

God of ancient covenants,  
your steadfast love and faithfulness  
still are new every morning.  
I think you that I can begin this day  
in the confidence of your abiding love and mercy.  
Help me to treat others—  
family, friends, coworkers,  
classmates, and strangers—  
with love and mercy in our encounters today.  
In the name of your beloved child, Amen.

#### ***Evening Prayer***

God of peace,  
as this day draws to a close  
and the evening draws in around me,  
I think of all the creatures of the earth  
that also seek rest in the hours of the night.  
You love them even as you love me,  
and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us.  
So, together with all your creatures,  
I offer you now all thanks and praise.  
Let us rest in your arms this night. Amen.

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## Additional Worship Opportunities:

### Morning Prayer

*Mondays through Fridays at 9:00AM  
via Zoom*

<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>

### Evening Prayer via Zoom

*Wednesdays at 7:00PM*

*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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.



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

*Monday, March 1, 6:30PM, via Zoom*

Howard Thurman's theology and ministry has played a leading role in social justice movements and organizations throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.



## Reverse Egg Hunt

*Palm Sunday, March 28 (Rain Date - Saturday, April 3)*

This year, the kids come to your yard! Yes, it's true! Participating church members who sign up as a "hunting yard" will receive eggs to hide (or a youth can hide them for you), already stuffed with goodies. Then we send your address to just one family who will come to find eggs in your yard. All you have to do is watch and enjoy! Snap a picture of the fun so we can all enjoy later!

We have kids waiting for yard assignments!  
Please sign up ASAP by contacting **Pastor Carrie** at  
[cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x 105).

If you've got little bunnies wanting to hunt for eggs, please contact **Pastor Carrie** (see above for contact info) to receive an address to find your treats!  
Sign up by **March 15** please.

Thanks for making this a special season for our community kids!



## 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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101



## Prayer Walk

### *Throughout Lent (Weather Permitting) Outside the Church*

Going on a walk? Walk with God on our “prayer walk” available on dry days outside our church all through Lent. Families will take turns sharing prayer prompts. Invite neighbors to check-it out as well!



## Lent-in-a-Box

**Contact Pastor Carrie by February 24 receive a code to pick it up 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](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x 105.



## Youth Ministry Interest Meeting

**February 28, 5 pm, By Zoom if we are in red/purple level, Wesley Hall distanced and with masks if yellow/orange level.**

We prayerfully hope to be in service this summer with a Youth Work Mission experience. While we will most likely stay somewhat local, we know this work is much needed and will be very transformational. Interested youth (6th-12th grade currently) and adult chaperones should join the conversation **February 28th at 5 pm**. We may vote on an experience at this meeting - so be sure to be present!



## 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](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com).



## GriefShare Welcomes New Participants

**Tuesdays via Zoom**

For more information, please contact Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com).



## **Loose Change Offering**

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. February’s selected mission is Berea Community Outreach.

*The mission of Berea Community Outreach is to support residents and connect the community by lending a hand to make a difference. They strive to identify specific needs and provide services to the people who need it most with programs such as Berea Cares, which mobilizes religious and civic organizations to serve the community. Our congregation has partnered with Berea Community Outreach over the past few years to do great work including leaf-raking, food donations, and other Berea Cares activities. During this difficult time, donations are particularly appreciated and can help take care of the needs of our community. If you find yourself in need of some support, please call Natalie Guzzo at 440-826-4891.*

Each month, you can support by either mailing in an offering, or doing so electronically at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate) using the “other” box to donate the mission or simply “loose change offering”.



## **Food Collection for Local Food Pantries**

***Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM, 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](http://www.umcb.org/donate). Please note “food pantry” on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



## **Equal Exchange Available the First Wednesday of Each Month**

***Wednesday, March 3, 6:30-7:15PM, In the Church Vestibule***

*Warm up on these chilly days with Equal Exchange coffee or tea.*

Equal Exchange items will be available for purchase on Wednesday, March 3 and the first Wednesday of each month in the church vestibule from 6:30-7:15PM.

Unable to come to the church? Contact the **church office** at [info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x100** and it may be possible to make other arrangements.

## Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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).

## 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](http://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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.