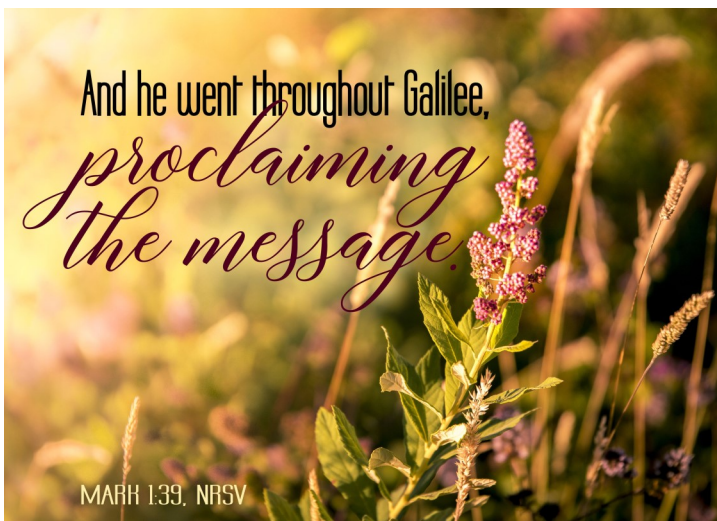


Worship Celebration



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 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

Amazing Grace

Words of Welcome

Choral Introit

My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing) (v. 1)

TFWS 2212

***My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, thou far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

Opening Prayer

*Lord of love, together with all creation and all the people of God,
we gather our hearts in this time of worship to sing your praises.
You are the one who has created the earth and everything in it.
You are the one who gives food to your creatures, names the stars,
comes closer to us than our next breath.
You are the one who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds,
who lifts up the downtrodden and pours out justice upon the earth.
God of compassion, how can we keep from singing your praise?
Now, through our worship and through our living, transform our praise into action,
that we might share your good news with those waiting to hear a word of hope
and proclaim your message of peace with justice throughout the world.
In the spirit of Christ, we worship, live, and pray, Amen.*

Hymn

My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing) (vv. 2-4)

TFWS 2212

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

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—Isaiah 40.21-31 (CEB)

²¹ Don't you know? Haven't you heard?

Wasn't it announced to you from the beginning?

Haven't you understood since the earth was founded?

²² God inhabits the earth's horizon—its inhabitants are like locusts—
stretches out the skies like a curtain and spreads it out like a tent for dwelling.

²³ God makes dignitaries useless and the earth's judges into nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely is their shoot rooted in the earth
when God breathes on them, and they dry up; the windstorm carries them off like straw.

²⁵ So to whom will you compare me, and who is my equal? says the holy one.

²⁶ Look up at the sky and consider: Who created these?

The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each of them by name.
Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, Jacob, and declare, Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD, my God ignores my predicament"?

²⁸ Don't you know? Haven't you heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.
He doesn't grow tired or weary.

His understanding is beyond human reach,

²⁹ giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted.

³⁰ Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Mark 1.29-39 (CEB)

²⁹ After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew.

³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. ³¹ He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

³² That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed.

³³ The whole town gathered near the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

³⁵ Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. ³⁶ Simon and those with him tracked him down. ³⁷ When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

³⁸ He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." ³⁹ He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Prayers of the People

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

One Bread, One Body (v. 2 and refrain)

UMH 620

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.***

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.***

One Bread, One Body / John B. Foley, SJ / 1978 OCP / Used by permission. One License, A-737772

The Great Thanksgiving

In these extraordinary circumstances, you are invited this morning to have prepared Communion elements or a simple piece of bread ready to receive as we participate together in the holy mystery of Communion, even while we remain physically apart. We will receive the elements at the same time, though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing is sacramental as our spirits interact with God's and with one another's. If the risen Christ really is present in all times and places, then surely Christ really is present among us even now. There is no substitute for gathering together in person; however, through God's grace, we trust that we still are held in communion with God and with one another.

Let us lift up our hearts as one, giving thanks to God who is with us,
now and always, here and everywhere:

O God of many names, whose Spirit runs free throughout this world,
whose image resides in every person,
you create us and you call us: to be your people, to share your love.
Even when we turn away and ignore your voice, you pursue us and keep empowering us:
through the proclamation of your law, through the words of your prophets,
through the wisdom of your poets and storytellers.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word in Jesus Christ to call us yet again:
on the shores of Galilee, in crowded marketplaces and on dusty roads,
inviting us to risk everything, to place our trust in you.

And so, with your people on earth and all the communion of creation,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Word in Jesus Christ,
who calls forth the best we have to offer
and sends us to go and to do things we never would imagine.

In Christ, you have broken down the dividing walls that would make us strangers to one another;
you have made of us one humanity.

Christ is our life, our hope, our joy, our peace, and our enduring love,
and so we remember with gratitude:

On the night in which he gave himself for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

“Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.”

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks, shared it, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant
shared for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of all you have done to save us and make us whole,
we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on each of us and on our gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may answer your call to be the body of Christ for the world,
redeemed by your enduring love.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final glory and we feast together at your open table.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

In collective longing for a taste of your beloved community here among us,
let us join now together in echoing the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

On Eagle's Wings

UMH 143

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"*

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

*The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
Under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.*

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

*For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"*

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

*On Eagle's Wings / Michael Joncas, Mark Hayes / 1979, 1991 New Dawn Music, OCP
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Prayer following Communion

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Promises

God of Abraham, you're the God of covenant, of faithful promises.

Time and time again you have proven you do just what you say.

Though the storms may come, and the winds may blow, I'll remain steadfast.

And let my heart learn when you speak a word, it will come to pass.

Great is your faithfulness to me. Great is your faithfulness to me.

From the rising sun to the setting same, I will praise your name. Great is your faithfulness to me.

*God, from age to age, though the earth may pass away, your word remains the same.
Your history can prove there's nothing you can't do. You're faithful and true.
Though the storms may come, and the winds may blow, I'll remain steadfast.
And let my heart learn when you speak a word, it will come to pass.
Great is your faithfulness to me. Great is your faithfulness to me.
From the rising sun to the setting same, I will praise your name. Great is your faithfulness to me.
Your faithfulness: it never runs out, it never runs out.
Your faithfulness: it never runs out, it never runs out.
I put my faith in Jesus, my anchor to the ground.
My hope and firm foundation, he'll never let me down.
Great is your faithfulness to me. Great is your faithfulness to me.
From the rising sun to the setting same, I will praise your name. Great is your faithfulness to me.*

*Promises / Lemuel Marin, Joe L. Barnes, Dante Bowe, Aaraon Moses, Phillip Carrington Gaines, Keila Alvarado
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Benediction

The same One who has named each of the stars in the sky has named each one of us.
Trust that God is calling you by name to proclaim the gospel of love.
Christ came close to people, healed them and made them whole.
Trust that Christ offers you that same wholeness and sends you to offer healing to others.
The Holy Spirit who birthed the church and anointed you through your baptism,
now sends you out from this time of worship to share God's unconditional love.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Highland Cathedral

Roever and Korb

***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*
Evan Howe, *Bagpipes*
Sean Howe, *Drum*

Video Production

Mark Williams

The altar flowers are given by the Pat Beckman and Family in memory of David Beckman.

Morning Prayer

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1.35)
As I turn to you in prayer this morning, God, bless me with a sense of purpose.
As I go out into this day, show me what I am to do. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Everlasting God, you have been here from the foundations of the earth.
I give to you this day now ending, with all its gifts and failings.
As I rest through the night, renew my strength and, in my dreams, lift me up on the wings of eagles. 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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.

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.