



Worship Celebration

February 28, 2021 + 11 AM

SECOND 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 11 AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) and in the Sanctuary

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

Modal Prelude

Jean Langlais

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

From generation to generation, you name us and claim us, O God.

When we try to tell you what to do, you lead us back onto the paths of life.

Train our ears to hear your call, and tune our hearts to open at the sound of your voice.

When we lose our way and wander from your path,

love us back into life, and perfect us with your grace.

Guide now our worship and our living, according to your ways of love. Amen.

***Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.***

***Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.***

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take a seal it, seal it for thy courts above.***

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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—Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 (CEB)

¹ When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Walk with me and be trustworthy. ² I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants."

³ Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴ "But me, my covenant is with you; you will be the ancestor of many nations. ⁵ And because I have made you the ancestor of many nations, your name will no longer be Abram but Abraham. ⁶ I will make you very fertile. I will produce nations from you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants' God after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, you will no longer call her Sarai. Her name will now be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and even give you a son from her. I will bless her so that she will become nations, and kings of peoples will come from her."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Mark 8.27-38 (CEB)

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

²⁸ They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

²⁹ He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." ³² He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. ³³ Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

³⁴ After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ³⁵ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. ³⁶ Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? ³⁷ What will people give in exchange for their lives? ³⁸ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

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

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

Sermon

Hymn

Living Sacrifice

All on the altar surrendered again. Freely I lay down my everything.

This is my honor, the gift that I bring.

I will be a living sacrifice. All my heart and soul to glorify.

I offer nothing less than all my life for Jesus Christ.

I just want to bless you, whatever it takes, with my mind and my body, my spirit and strength.

If you are a fire, then set me ablaze.

I will be a living sacrifice. All my heart and soul to glorify.

I offer nothing less than all my life for Jesus Christ.

I'll give you all, give you all of my worship. Fall, fire, fall, fire, fall, come consume it.

*Living Sacrifice / Brandon Lake, Mitch Wong / 2018 Integrity's Praise! Music
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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

(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

Bless us this day, Eternal God, that we may be a blessing in a world of need.

***Bless our gifts and our offerings in your name, that they may light the way home
for all of us who have wandered far and lost your way.***

***As these gifts go forth to do your work, may they help all people hear you call their names
and bring them peace. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom

UMH 508

*Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit;
faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the buds begin to sprout.*

*Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun.
Faith is eager for the daylight, for the work that must be done.*

*Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark.
Abraham, the lonely migrant, saw the light beyond the dark.*

*Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the undivided sea,
and the people of the Hebrews found the path that made them free.*

*Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what God will be!
Faith accepts the call, responding, "I am willing, Lord, send me."*

*Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom / Anders Frostenson, Fred Kaan / 1988 Hope Publishing Co.
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Benediction

Listen for the voice of God calling your name, and follow wherever God will lead you.
Listen for the voice of Christ claiming you as God's beloved, and live as God's family of faith.
Listen for the voice of the Spirit sending you forth, and go where the Spirit sends you.
Go from this time of worship, called, claimed, and sent, and may the peace of Christ go with you always.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

***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, *Organ*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Piano*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus,
help me walk with you this day.
If you lead me where I fear to go,
give me courage and keep me true,
that I may bear my cross without shame
and live in the promise of your life. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Jesus, if I have strayed,
show me my faults,
forgive my sins,
and set me again on your right path.
Keep me in the way of the cross,
and lead me to the joy of life in you. 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 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 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.



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 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 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!



Youth Ministry Interest Meeting

February 28, 5PM, Fellowship Hall

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 28 at 5 PM**. We may vote on an experience at this meeting - so be sure to be present!



Read and Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, March 8, 6:30 - 8PM, via Zoom

Join us on Monday, March 8 to discuss **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison . *Nine-year-old Claudia and ten-year-old Frieda MacTeer live in Lorain, Ohio, with their parents. It is the end of the Great Depression, and the girls' parents are more concerned with making ends meet than with lavishing attention upon their daughters, but there is an undercurrent of love and stability in their home. The MacTeers take in a boarder, Henry Washington, and also a young girl named Pecola who thinks she is ugly. Pecola equates beauty and social acceptance with whiteness, so she longs to have “the bluest eye.”*

Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81259288501>

By phone: 1-888-788-0099, Meeting ID: 812 5928 8501

If you have questions, please call **Janet Mallarnee** at 440-235-7331, **Betsy Meikle** at 440-243-5767, or **Jan Harlamert** at 440-243-7126.



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

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



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 or 440-234-3525 x100 and it may be possible to make other arrangements.



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. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



Virtual Mission Trip to UMCOR Sager Brown

Wednesday, March 17, 2:30PM, via Zoom

One of our significant and long-standing mission partnerships has been with the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, where we have been sending mission teams every spring. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, UMCOR Sager Brown has been unable to host volunteers on campus since mid-March 2020. However, there still are opportunities for us to stay connected with the mission and ministry of Sager Brown through a "virtual mission trip" via Zoom. Whether or not you have traveled previously with one of our teams, you are invited to join a Zoom meeting hosted by our partners at Sager Brown. This two-hour meeting is intended as an introduction to the Sager Brown campus and ministry as well as an opportunity to continue our support of this important work.

For more information, including the Zoom link to join the March 17 meeting, please email **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org).



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.

Each month, 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".

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).

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.

REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE
BY SUPPORTING OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS IN MISSION THIS EASTER.

This Easter we are inviting you to give missionally, in lieu of flowers. There will still be some lovely flowers in our worship space, but we'd also like to fill it with symbolic new life in the form of seed paper butterflies. Each butterfly will represent a donation made in memory or honor of a person of your naming. The funds donated will support the important ministry of our global partners in mission.

Cambodia - *The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in Cambodia is launching a new ministry in 2021 called the "Shine Project." This ministry will provide vocational training for young women, ages 16-25, who are unable to attend university due to a lack of money. Through the Shine Project, participants will receive training and licensure in trades such as cooking and cosmetology, opening avenues to economic empowerment.*

Guatemala - *Our Guatemalan mission supports women who live in the mountains and have little access to paid work. We help the women create small businesses. Most businesses are a single farm animal, most commonly, cattle. The women strive to produce the healthiest animals possible, including the construction of shelters to protect them. Our church funds the concrete for the floors. The women and their families provide the roofing and other materials. Our church and the women each contribute something different but "it is the same God at work." I Corinthians 12:6c (NIV).*

Use this attached form to request a butterfly by March 20, 2021. Mail donations or donate online at www.umcb.org/donate with the memo "butterfly". A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Easter bulletin as well as the May Caller.

After Easter, we invite you to come "pluck" a butterfly from our display or request it be mailed to you. You can then plant your butterfly to enjoy lovely spring flowers. (Directions will be included for planting.)

As the Easter message spreads throughout the earth anew this year,
we pray to send our blessings on "wings" as well.

Butterfly Request Form

All forms and payments are due to the church office by March 20, 2021.

If donating online, please put the amount in the "other" category and specify "butterfly" as the description.

If mailing a check to the church office, please write "butterfly" on the memo line.

Name: _____ **Phone or Email:** _____
(in case we have questions)

Donation made in memory of: _____

Donation made in honor of: _____

After Easter, I wish to...

- "pluck" my butterfly from the church display.
- request that my butterfly be mailed to me.

Mailing Address: _____