



FOURTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

Worship Celebration

UMCOR Sunday
March 14, 2021 + 11 AM

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) 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)

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 King of Love My Shepherd Is

Irish Tune, arr. Dale Wood

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we long to return to your warm embrace.

We yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love endures forever.

We long to feel the warmth of your love shining upon us each day.

*Lead us from death into life, that we might live as children of your light,
serving one another as vessels of your love.*

Redeem us this day, O God, as we worship the one who comes to bring us life. Amen.

Hymn

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

UMH 340

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

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—Numbers 21.4-9 (CEB)

⁴They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. ⁵The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!" ⁶So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

⁷The people went to Moses and said, “We’ve sinned, for we spoke against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD so that he will send the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

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

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

Gospel Lesson—John 3.14-21 (CEB)

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him isn’t judged; whoever doesn’t believe in him is already judged, because they don’t believe in the name of God’s only Son.

¹⁹“This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. ²⁰All who do wicked things hate the light and don’t come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. ²¹Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God.”

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

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

Sermon

Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

UMH 375

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.***

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you look for knowledge, he’ll ne’er refuse to lend.***

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.***

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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

***God of light and love, as Jesus lived your love into our troubled world,
may these offerings bring expressions of your love into our neighborhood.
May these gifts reach the places where fears hold sway,
that all may find Christ's love in the midst of their lives. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

God So Loved

***Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry.
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.
Come all you sinners, come find his mercy. Come to the table, he will satisfy.
Taste of his goodness, find what you're looking for.
For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in him will live forever.***

***Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting there with open arms.
For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in him will live forever.***

***The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.
For God so loved, God so loved the world.
Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, praise him for the wonders of his love.***

*God So Loved / Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash, Andrew Bergthold
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Benediction

God sends us forth with the immeasurable gift of faith. Let us live in the joy of our salvation.
God sends us forth to walk in the light of holy love. Let us walk in the light of Christ.
God sends us forth in spirit and in truth. Let us journey in the Spirit's tender mercies,
going out from this time of worship with the blessings of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Closing Song

Everlasting God

***Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.***

***Our God, you reign forever. Our hope, our strong deliverer.
You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
You do not faint, you won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak, you comfort those in need,
you lift us up on wings like eagles.***

*Everlasting God / Brenton Brown, Ken Riley / 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing
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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, *Organ*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Piano*
Jeremy Piper, *Praise Band Leader*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

Loving God, draw me to your light,
that I may avoid the dangers of sin
and receive the freedom of your grace
in and through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord Christ, as shadows of night draw near,
sustain me by the light
that banishes the fearful claim of death.
Help me believe in you with all my heart
that I may know the freedom of salvation
and at last receive the joy of eternal life in you.
Amen.

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UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and yet they are anything but a typical committee. They are a program by the General Board of Global Ministries taking action when disaster strikes around the globe.

UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn't have to be something "they" do, it can be something "we" do. We hope that you will give generously this upcoming UMCOR Sunday so that we, along with our United Methodist congregations around the globe, can share compassionate relief in the midst of devastation. We pray for the volunteers, the lives they touch, and for hearts to be moved.

UMCOR Sunday is where we come together to help. On this Special Sunday, our generosity as a church covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts.

If you want to learn more about UMCOR visit: www.umcsgiving.org/UMCOR.



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).



Additional Worship Opportunities:

Morning Prayer

Mondays through Fridays

9:00AM

via Zoom

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

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays

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**.



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 x105**.

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!



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.



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.



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. March's selected mission is Hanson House.

Hanson House supports those living with Traumatic Brain Injuries in our community. They have been supported by our congregation in a number of ways through the years. Hanson House is a network of members and volunteers who participate in social, recreational, and work-oriented programs for the purpose using and developing practical and functional living skills. While not in our building at the moment, we hope to see their return soon. In the meantime, we continue to support their vital work of compassion in our community.

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".



Have a Heart collection for OhioGuidestone

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to our "Have a Heart" collection for OhioGuidestone. Thanks to your generosity, the youth in their residential campus now have enough hygiene supplies to last them for a year! We also collected some very nice new clothes, shoes, underwear and socks to have on hand for new admissions. All donated items have been delivered as of the first week of March.

If you would like to do anything further, please contact
Laura Rushton (567-303-1954 or jlaurush@gmail.com),
Pastor Carrie (440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org),
or **Pastor Nathan** (440-234-3525 x100 or nhowe@umcb.org).

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 March 11, Ohioans age 50 and over are 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 8AM and 4PM.

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.

**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).

Updated Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Worshipping together and walking with Jesus through Holy Week and into Easter is an essential part of the rhythm of our Christian life. Beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we remain with him through the final week of his life: sharing Communion in the upper room on Maundy Thursday, standing at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, waiting and praying at the tomb on Holy Saturday, and finally opening ourselves to being surprised again at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. These events and rituals are at the very heart of who we are and what we do.

Although we are still restricted in our ability to gather all together in one place as we would like, we remain connected to one another and to God through our worship and through these rhythms. Please join us in whatever ways you are able and comfortable, and invite others to join us, also:



Palm
SUNDAY

Palm Sunday (March 28): 11AM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)



Maundy
THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday (April 1): 7PM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)



Good
FRIDAY

Good Friday (April 2): two pre-recorded worship services will be available online, any time at or after Noon—

Berea Community Crosswalk and Worship (www.facebook.com/BereaAreaChurches/live)

East Ohio Black Pastors' Fellowship—Seven Last Words of Jesus (www.cotsumc.org/live)



Holy
SATURDAY

Holy Saturday (April 3): 6PM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)

Easter Vigil (April 3 – April 4): wait and pray in the Sanctuary from 7PM on Saturday until 7AM on Sunday—sign up for a half-hour time slot at <http://www.umcb.org/worshipresources/>.



Easter
SUNDAY

Easter Sunday (April 4):

7AM Sunrise Service on the north lawn (masks and physical distancing required; bring a lawn chair and join us at the north end of the building as we welcome the Risen Christ along with the rising sun)

11AM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required; pre-registration required—sign up by March 31 at <http://www.umcb.org/worshipresources/>).

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: _____